FBIS DAILY REPORT

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LA NACION REPORTS ON TRADE WITH SOVIET UNION

Railway Electrification Project

PY190148 Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 17 Mar 83 p 8

[Text] A group of Soviet experts are in our country working on a feasibility project for the electrification of the Mitre railway line branch which runs betweem this capital and Rosario. The experts are inspecting in situ the infrastructure of the rails of this branch which would be electrified through a system similar to the one used for trolleybuses which will also be used by the Japanese experts in the electrification of the Roca railway line.

The electrification of the Retiro-Rosario branch is top priority in the Argentine Railway Enterprises' modernization program after the electrification of the Roca railway line, which is a much greater project since it involves 330 km of double rails.

1983 Grain Purchases

PY190152 Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 18 Mar 83 p 1

[Text] It was learned from grain exporting circles that yesterday the Soviet Union started its purchases of corn and sorghum of this year's harvest.

The purchases, which range from 500,000 tons to 100,000 tons of corn and sorghum, form part of the 4.5 million ton agreement signed with Argentina in 1980.

The deals were allegedly closed with several local firms at an estimated price between $126 and $127 per ton for corn and $105 per ton for sorghum for shipment between next April and June.

As it may be recalled, a Soviet trade mission headed by Deputy Foreign Minister Boris Gordeyev visited Buenos Aires a few weeks ago but no deals were closed on that occasion.

BIGNONE MEETS PRESS, VIEWS ECONOMY, FLOODS

PY190223 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2045 GMT 18 Mar 83

[Excerpts] Santa Fe, 18 Mar (TELAM) -- The president of the nation said here today that the decision to build the Yacyreta dam has been made. He added: We are taking all the necessary steps included in the construction schedule, therefore we have decided to build it.

General Bignone -- in a press conference -- referring to the floods said that we must regulate the Parana River with large projects of the Corpus, Yacyreta and Middle Parana type.

In answer to reporters, the chief of state said that the Parana River can be regulated with these projects and that with the addition of other complementary projects floods could be prevented from taking place again.

Regarding these projects, Bignone said that some of them are in advanced study and others in the process of construction.

Regarding the anti-inflationary measures announced last night and if decisions on salary and tariff matters can be expected, Bignone pointed out that he has always believed that there are no miracle or overnight solutions to economic matters and that if the national government makes these promises it will only be deceiving those who should not be deceived.

He went on to say that the government has recognized that the crisis is serious, that the situation is very serious and that the world situation is the same. He said: "I was able to really feel this during the meeting in New Delhi from where I have just returned. At this meeting practically all the speakers did not hesitate to say that this is the worst crisis since the thirties and most of these speakers talked about the same problems that we have." He also said that the measures taken are permanent and that explanations on these matters will be given next week hoping that as time passes the measures will provide the desired results but he added that without everyone's cooperation there will be no total solution.

Concerning this area's greatest worries he said that there are two: "The possibility of Entre Rios being isolated due to the situation of the national roads 12 and 168, although every effort is being made to prevent this from happening, and the rehabilitation of the affected areas, not only the areas, but also the people living there."

Regarding the recent disagreements among the members of the economic team which resulted in the resignation of officials, Bignone said that the resignations were caused by different viewpoints and in more than one case by personal reasons and that this should not worry anyone, that this is part of any government. He said: We are not glued to a rigid plan, we are following a flexible program which will allow us to reach the solutions the country needs and without promising solutions we cannot reach overnight.

He emphatically denied that he discussed the amnesty law during a dinner with the commanders of the Armed Forces last night. Regarding Maria Estela Martinez de Peron, he said that two matters are involved: one related to the institutional act which is under the consideration of the military junta and the other related to the Supreme Court resolution which is at this time at the judicial level.

Regarding reconciliation, he said: If there is anything we Argentines should do it is to come together, and he made it clear that if we call it reconciliation it would mean admitting that we are quarreling. I would prefer to say that we have different viewpoints in relating to the problems afflicting the country and that we have to search for all the necessary ways to join efforts and to respect everyone's ideas.

He said that we have a remarkable country and that he just came from abroad where one feels, lives and talks the problems of the world and that we should be thankful to God for having been born in this blessed Argentine land. He reiterated that the main objective of the process of national reorganization is the institutionalization of the country and that the Armed Forces never had the intention of remaining in power indefinitely.

In conclusion, the president emphasized that he wanted to make clear that this was a work meeting with the provincial governors and not an official visit because and official visit would have demanded another program, including meetings with the people. He said: You can rest assured that the ministers present here are going to answer your requests, requests which are going to be considered by the national government next Wednesday.

MINISTRY RELEASES NEW ECONOMIC MEASURES

PY190309 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 18 Mar 83 p 1

[Excerpts] The government yesterday established a price control system setting decreasing monthly limits on price hikes by 1,031 of the largest private companies until December 15, in exchange for special Central Bank credit privileges for companies agreeing to the plan.

The measures were announced yesterday afternoon by the Economy Ministry, which also decreed the reduction of the value added tax from eight to two percent for goods traded at the Buenos Aires central market.

Economy Minister Jorge Wehbe briefed the military junta yesterday on the package of economic measures the government is implementing to try to control inflation and reactivate the economy, and Planning Secretary Jose Miret explained the current situation of the central market. President Reynaldo Bignone was also present at the junta meeting, which lasted from 9 am to 3 pm.

As for the credit privileges, the Central Bank will make available to those companies which meet the price control limits a special credit line for the replenishment of available capital and will lower by two points the interest rates they must pay on commercial loans.

The economic measures were contained in Economy Ministry Decree number 273, which states that "it is necessary to keep up the purchasing power of wages and not to allow price increases which neutralize their improvement in real terms.

"This increase in the purchasing power of wages is an essential condition for the reactivation of the economy through a strengthening of demand," the decree continues.

Those companies choosing to adopt the government's price control system must submit a sworn statement to the Commerce Secretariat to that effect. Those which do not observe or which violate the government's price limits will lose special credit privileges at the Central Bank and will be subject to severe sanctions.

Wehbe Comments on Plan

PY182217 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1210 GMT 18 Mar 83

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires 18 Mar, (TELAM) -- Economy Minister Jorge Wehbe said today that the salary increase will be decided next week and that he does not believe that is will surpass 15 percent. Wehbe made this statement at Ezeiza International Airport before his departure for Panama where he will attend the 24th IDB Assembly.

He said that reserves are being exhausted and that there is a squandering of fuel oil. He added that fuel oil prices will be increased not because of economic reasons but in order to preserve a scarce resource.

Wehbe noted that there is no need to discuss anything with the IMF because the guidelines are being followed perfectly and because Argentina is one of the few countries that is able to fulfill its agreements with the IMF. He added that eventually if any changes are needed these will be made, but that for the time being there is no need to make any changes.

The economy minister did not give any importance to the criticism that many sectors launched against the measures that were announced by the Finance Ministry yesterday and he added that it is very difficult to make everybody happy when their interests are affected.

Wehbe noted: We act in keeping with the interest of the people. We have requested support and understanding. Regarding the criticism issued yesterday by Argentine industrial union leaders, Wehbe said this was logical since they have their point of view while the government must act in keeping with the interest of the people.

Wehbe pointed out that he hoped these measures will help curb inflation. Regarding the enforcement of sanctions if these measures are not fulfilled, the minister pointed out that they are especially serious regarding interest rates since those companies that do not observe this measure will have to pay one and one-half the normal rates for loans.

As for the companies that are not included in the list that was issued yesterday, the minister said that he hopes there is pressure for a downward trend in prices because when large companies lower their prices, retail shops tend to do the same.

'SERIOUS' RIFT SEEN IN MULTIPARTY GROUP

PY192110 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 18 Mar 83 p 11

[Text] (DYN-NA) -- The Multiparty Grouping suffered a serious internal crisis yesterday when the five parties which make up the two-year old political coalition failed to reach agreement on the contents of an economic document scheduled for release within the next week.

Irreconciliable differences in economic policy between the Movement for Integration and Development (MID) and the other four parties which make up the multiparty (Peronist, Radical, Intransigent and Christian Democrat) emerged in the commission drafting the economic document which was to present the grouping economic policy alternatives to the government.

The MID proposed its own version of the economic document which reportedly differed from the other four parties' proposal in that it outlined a very detailed programme of specific economic measures. The document favoured by the other four parties instead contained a general condemnation of the military government's economic policies and a rather vague series of "recommendations" and guidelines which should be followed.

The two differing proposals will now be passed on the presidents of the five multiparty parties for a final decision or a compromise between the two versions.

MID Vice President Rogelio Frigerio said yesterday that it is not his party's intention to "split the Multiparty," but simply to "reaffirm its economic principles in a time of national crisis."

But Peronist economist Eduardo Setti said that the MID's economic proposal is "tremendously regressive" and that it could "brutally destroy the working class" if it was applied.

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS CONFERENCE OPENS

PY190130 La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 18 Mar 83

[Excerpt] The international political conference on human rights and the return to democracy was officially opened this morning. The constitutional president of the republic attended the opening ceremony. Approximately 2,000 Bolivian and foreign citizens participated in the opening ceremony of the conference, which will be a most important forum that will analyze the human rights problem. President Hernan Siles Zuazo, Adolfo Perez Esquivel, Carlos Andres Perez, and Edgar Berduga were among the most prominent persons present at the ceremony.

LABOR MINISTER ON NEW MINIMUM WAGE POLICY

PY181203 La Paz Domestic Service in Spanish 0120 GMT 17 Mar 83

[Statement to the press by Labor and Labor Development Minister Roberto Arnez Villaroel at the Hall of Mirrors of Government House in La Paz -- live]

[Text] Although it may not seem so, on analyzing our country's wage situation, we had to take into consideration a number of problems of a general nature, including that of maintaining our general guidelines for building an independent national economy. Of course, the treatment that the labor force in our country deserves has been carefully studied.

There is no need here to refer to the general crisis that is affecting the capitalist world and our country as well. I am not saying anything new when I say that our country's economic crisis is profound, serious and structural. This crisis must be overcome with the effort of all Bolivians, especially by establishing guidelines for the development of an independent national economy.

As far as salary matters are concerned, we are doing our best to meet the workers' demands regarding the minimum wage with an escalator clause. In the decrees issued in November, the government set the groundwork for the escalator clause. Moreover, the government stated that by the end of the period established for this policy, the escalator clause whould be put into effect.

The main decree referring to the salary policy refers, precisely, to the fulfillment of this commitment assumed by the government. And it has been fulfilled entirely. [Word indistinct] the variation experienced by the consumer price index [CPI] between the first week of November and the last week of February.

According to data given by the National Statistics Institute, this variation amounts to approximately 46 percent. Consequently, the salary readjustment takes this index into account and applies it to the minimum wage established through the decrees issued in November, that is, to 8,490 pesos. This hike amounts to 3,910 pesos. If we add this amount to the stated minimum wage, we will find out that the new minimum wage established through this decree, increases to 12,400 pesos.

Consequently, beginning on 1 March 1983 -- because these measures are to be put into effect retroactively to 1 March -- the minimum wage to be paid to all breadwinners and employees in our country will be 12,400 pesos. Other fringe benefits, such as the bonuses that are paid based on production and seniority, the transportation allowance [bono de mobilizacion] etcetera; will be added to this new minimum wage. This is basically what is meant by the minimum wage with an escalator clause established by the government in November 1982.

The salary policy, which is discussed further in two other decrees, seeks to establish some kind of order in the current anarchy that exists in our country. A special decree establishes the provisions regarding categories and production bonuses, seeking to overcome the different opinions existing in different enterprises, whether private or public, on these two aspects.

This helps us to establish order in the wage administration policy. The decree is also meant to eliminate a number of fringe benefits by adjusting them to the minimum wage established in our decree.

Consequently, except for certain fringe benefits which are exempted from elimination, we now have amore unified salary, and this will certainly provide a great contribution in several aspects regarding salary administration.

The following fringe benefits will be excluded from this wage unification idea: the bonuses paid on the basis of seniority and production and the transportation allowance, as well as others which due to their sectorial and specific nature will receive special treatment.

To (?understand better) the subject we are discussing with you, I must add that the escalator clause requires periodic reconsideration. The main decree referring to this subject states that this reconsideration will take place every 6 months, although it establishes an exception in the hypothetical case that the CPI experiences an increase of 40 percent before the completion of the 6-month period. This is another aspect discussed in the decree referring to the implementation of the escalation clause.

Finally, I want to say that the cabinet is not engaged in dealing with the salary policy alone. The cabinet is also studying the extension of the general labor law to include working in the agricultural sector. This study continues and certainly the Bolivian people will be informed about the progress of these deliberations, which are very important. I also want to say that we are also studying the extension of the bonus paid on the basis of seniority to mineworkers in the private sector.

FLOODS FORCE EMERGENCY STATUS IN SANTA CRUZ

PY182048 La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 18 Mar 83

[Excerpt] Santa Cruz has been declared in a state of emergency after 12 hours of heavy rains. It is reported that 3,000 families have been evacuated from five neighborhoods affected by the torrential rains that are deluging the area.

The prefecture of Santa Cruz has deployed a large group of persons along with the Civil Defense and Red Cross of Santa Cruz to carry out a rescue plan in the area. Private and public vehicle owners are volunteering to help with the rescue plan.

BRIEFS

AMBASSADORS TO VATICAN, UN -- Carlos Romero Alvarez Garcia, director of the La Paz morning daily HOY, has been appointed Bolivian ambassador to the Vatican and has already received the approval of the Holy See. [La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 16 Mar 83 PY] New York, 18 Mar (AFP) -- Fernando Salazar Paredes has presented his credentials as the new Bolivian ambassador to the United Nations to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, according to information released here today. [Paris AFP in Spanish 0452 GMT 19 Mar 83 PY]

PENNA WARNS PROTECTIONISM MAY FORCE NONPAYMENT

PY192226 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 19 Mar 83

[Text] Brazilian Industries and Commerce Minister Camilo Penna harshly criticized the protectionist policies of developed nations. He said that Brazil will be unable to pay its foreign debts if the industrialized nations refuse to buy its goods.

According to the minister, Brazil produces a great variety of commodities including steel and vehicles which, once sold, would enable Brazil to pay off its debts. We are offering these goods to them, but if they do not want to buy them, it will be up to them to come up with some solution through which we could pay off our foreign debt.

Camilo Penna made these remarks when speaking at the opening of the 13th iron and steel congress in Rio de Janeiro. Speaking to the press later, he emphasized the need to make these goods competitive abroad and justified the maxidevaluation of the cruzeiro by saying that it would lower the cost of manpower and lead to a higher rate of employment.

CENTRAL BANK FORECASTS CASH-FLOW DEFICIT

PY181812 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 17 Mar 83 p 28

[Excerpt] Sao Paulo -- The nation may have to face a $2.3 billion cash-flow deficit at the end of the first half of this year and this deficit could reach $5 billion by the end of the year mainly because of the bad performance of exports and insufficient inflow of foreign funds. This forecast is part of an analysis by the Central Bank that has been conveyed to Brazil's main foreign creditors as a kind of warning about the possibility that additional steps might need to be taken as part of the renegotiation of this year's debt.

The analysis began to be relayed to the main international financial centers 2 weeks ago and this was confirmed yesterday by the director of a large U.S. bank with offices in Brazil. The Central Bank analysis provides for the need to draw up new project "ones" (more loans) with international bankers and more project "fours" (maintenance of call money arrangements with foreign banks) in case exports fail to improve significantly.

PUBLIC DEBT, INFLATION RISE, BONDS UNSOLD

PY192230 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 19 Mar 83

[Text] By the end of February, the nation's domestic public debt amounted to 298 trillion cruzeiros, which means an increase of 14 percent this year alone and 138 percent over the last 12 months. Meanwhile inflation for the first 2 months of the year rose 16.2 percent and 104.3 percent over the last 12 months.

The Central Bank has admitted that 8 days after they were implemented. It is still unable to evaluate the results of government measures directed at lowering interest rates. The Central Bank said that this will be done only after the banks comply with resolution no. 804 which compels them to report the interest rates they are charging and paying.

At the end of February, the Central Bank was holding 34.5 percent -- that is, 3.1 trillion cruzeiros -- of all federal public bonds in circulation because of current difficulties in the marketing of the paper.

IMF GROUP STUDIES FEASIBILITY OF PLAN CHANGE

Standby Credit Discussed

PY181323 Santiago Domestice Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 18 Mar 83

[Excerpts] The economy minister has confirmed that a preliminary agreement has been reached with the IMF for a modification of the agreement by which a standby credit was granted to Chile. This was stated by the minister when he was interviewed by the press at the inauguration of the [name indistinct] factory. Minister Manuel Martin Saez also said that work is going on at a rapid pace to draw up the economic emergency plan. Meanwhile, spokesmen of the economic sector said that the time has not yet been set when Finance Minister Carlos Caceres will speak to the country to explain the emergency economic plan.

Delegation Departs 19 March

PY210157 Paris AFP in Spanish 0439 GMT 20 Mar 83

[Excerpt] Santiago, 19 Mar (AFP) -- An IMF delegation returned today to Washington after negotiating for 2 weeks with Chilean authorities about implementing or suspending a $500 million loan to Chile. Chile had asked the IMF to change the terms it imposed on 10 January to grant the above loan. There has been no information as to whether an agreement has been reached to this effect.

APPEAL REFUSED, AUSTRALIAN PRIEST TO LEAVE

PY191947 Santiago Domestice Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 19 Mar 83

[Text] The Court of Appeals last night turned down a request for an injunction submitted on behalf of the Australian Priest Brian McMahon who asked for the repeal of the Interior Ministry decree ordering his expulsion. This foreign priest is charged with participation in various political activities, particularly staging street incidents and opening up his parish premises for acts contrary to laws in force. Brian McMahon must leave the country today, otherwise the expulsion decree against this activist priest will be carried out.

RAILWAY FREIGHT RATE AGREEMENT WITH BOLIVIA

PY181328 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 18 Mar 83

[Text] One of the agreements reached between the Chilean and Bolivian railways is a substantial reduction of the freight rates on the Arica-La Paz line. A meeting of the railway managements from the two countries was held in the Bolivian capital recently in order to find an urgent solution to the difficult situation faced by the Arica-La Paz railway, caused by a sharp reduction in the freight volume carried by that international line, used almost exclusively by Bolivia.

One of the measures is that the dollar freight rates for Bolivian imports will now be paid in Bolivian pesos. There will be reductions of from 15 to 30 percent in the freight rates for goods going toward Bolivia, while there will be a fixed rate of $12 for the stretch between the border and Arica for goods going down to the coast. Other measures agreed upon include the increase of cargo capacity and the establishment of complementary services which include the operation of a bus line by the private railway company.

LLOREDA ON CUBAN RELATIONS, NONALIGNMENT

PA181342 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0432 GMT 18 Mar 83

[Text] Bogota, 17 Mar (EFE) -- Colombian Foreign Minister Rodrigo Lloreda Caicedo asserted today that the government is not currently planning to resume diplomatic relations with Cuba.

Upon his return to Colombia from the recent nonaligned conference, the foreign minister said that he held talks with the Cuban authorities, who agreed that there is not need to rush into any decision on this subject.

Lloreda said: All that currently exists between our two nations is a mere contact, which may become something more specific with time.

He added that ever since Colombia joined the Nonaligned Movement there has been considerable talk about rapprochement between the two countries, apparently because the movement has always been identified with Cuba, a result of the fact that Fidel Castro was its president until recently.

The minister said that he was pleased with the way that Colombia was received within the movement, noting that not a single voice was raised in opposition.

Finally, he rejected Guyana's opposition to Venezuela's membership in the organization, commenting that Venezuela has every right to become a member.

FARC LEADERS SEEK DIALOGUE WITH MORALEZ BENITEZ

PA180445 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 13 Mar 83 pp 1-A, 6-A

[Excerpt] The leaders of six fronts of the self-styled Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, which operate in the Central Magdalena Department, has addressed a message to Otto Moralez Benitez, president of the Colombian Peace Commission and former cabinet minister, expressing their wish to contribute to the country's pacification and requesting dialogue with officials.

Commenting on the proposal, Moralez Benitez said he has not received the letter but that he is prepared to talk with the guerrillas at any time and place they indicate.

BRIEFS

AMBASSADOR TO FRG -- Luis Gonzalez Barros has been appointed new Colombian ambassador to the FRG. [Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 9 Mar 83 p 8-A PA]

YELLOW FEVER OUTBREAK -- It was reported here today that 6,000 cases of yellow fever have been detected in northeastern Antioquia Department, in a new outbreak of the disease. The Antioquia health services say they isued a call to the Pan American Health Organization to cooperate with the supplying of anti-malaria vaccines. The disease has broken out in areas on the banks of the Magdalena, Colombia's largest river, which runs from the south to the northern part of the country. [Text] [Paris AFP in Spanish 1357 GMT 15 Mar 83 PA]

GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES ECONOMIC MEASURES 19 MAR

Currency Devalued, Prices Changed

PA191302 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0611 GMT 19 Mar 83

[Excerpts] Quito, 19 Mar (EFE) -- Today the Ecuadorean Government approved the devaluation of its currency from 33 to 42 sucres per dollar, while anticipating further "mini-devaluations" of 0.04 sucres "for each working day" beginning next Wednesday.

In a communique issued at 0045 (0545 GMT), the authorities justified the decision as reflecting "the need to control the international monetary reserve" of Ecuador and to establish "a flexible system" for currency exchange, to encourage exports and make the country "competitive" in the international market. The official announcement of the devaluation was made only 4 hours after the United Workers Front, FUT, called a general strike for next Wednesday to protest this measure.

The Monetary Board also approved a price increase for fuel, except gasoline, or from 13 to 18 percent above current prices. In addition, it approved an increase of interest rates from the current 12 and 14 percent to 16 percent.

For the first time in Ecuador's currency exchange rates, it established virtual control over the free market, which cannot sell dollars at more than 2 percent of the official rate.

EFE also learned that Finance Minister Pedro Pinto, member of the Monetary Board, will address the nation by radio and television next Sunday to explain the purposes of the measures.

Both official and unofficial circles have been talking about the danger that an outbreak of protests could represent for the country's democracy, which was established in 1979.

Interest Rate Hiked

PA191617 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1230 GMT 19 Mar 83

[Excerpts] The Monetary Board has approved a new interest rate structure and has increased the highest active interest rate to 16 percent. The interest rate that the banks and financial institutions have to pay the public for their savings, long-term deposits, policies and financial certificates was increased from 12 to 13 percent, with a maximum of 15 percent. This is the rate that the banks receive from their debtors for loans or any other operation.

The Monetary Board has authorized the Central Bank to intervene in the free foreign exchange market for the purchase of foreign currency for 30 percent of the FOB value of exports. It simplified the participation of many firms in the petroleum resources. [sentence as heard]

The government devalued the sucre to 42 per dollar and established daily mini-devaluations. The government established a new currency exchange rate at 42 sucres per U.S. dollar. This is equivalent to a 27.27 percent devaluation compared to the previous exchange rate of 33 sucres per dollar set on 13 May 1982, for the first time the Ecuadorean Government approved a system of minidevaluations. The system establishes that the sucre is devalued 4 cents a day; that is to say, 88 cents a month. The decision was made after the Monetary Board resolution favoring the measure was publicly announced at 0030 Saturday following the Monetary Board's exhausting 14-hour session.

Yesterday the government decreed price increases for diesel, bunker oil, (kerex) afgas, and turbofuel. It froze the prizes of gasoline and gas. The price of diesel increased to 13 sucres and should continue to increase every quarter until April 1984 when a definite price of 21 sucres will be set. Bunker oil was increased from 7 to 8 sucres until June and will then increase by 1.5 sucres the two following quarters and by 2 sucres the subsequent quarters until April 1984 when it will be stabilized at 13 sucres. The price of (kerex) will increase the same way. It will initially increase to 7 sucres a gallon until June and undergo quarterly increases of 1.5 sucres and then 2 sucres until April 1984 when (kerex) will be priced at 14 sucres. The prices of afgas and turbofuel which are used by airplanes have been definitely increased to 25 sucres a gallon. These prices went into effect at 0600 today.

The release (desincautacion) of 30 percent of the foreign exchange from the non-traditional exports was an additional measure which the Monetary Board took to stabilize the free foreign exchange market. As a result, 30 percent of the exports, with the exception of petroleum, coffee, cacao and bananas, will enter the free market of the Central Bank. In 1982, the nontraditional exports amounted to $540 million; therefore, it is estimated that $162 million will enter the Central Bank's free market. In addition, the Central Bank will open two import lines. One will be for preferential imports for which the bank will sell dollars at the official rate; another will be for nonessential imports for which the bank will sell dollars at the free market rate.

OPPOSITION GROUPS ASSAIL ECONOMIC PROGRAM

PA192051 Quito Cadena Ecuador Radio in Spanish 2300 GMT 18 Mar 83

[Text] Political and social circles are already reacting to the Monetary Board decisions, even as the country's monetary authorities continue discussing the so-called economic stabilization plan. (Ney Barrionuevo), political and cultural advisor to the vice presidency of the republic, is totally opposed to the economic measures the Monetary Board will approve in today's session. He said that the People, Change and Democracy Movement, which he leads, will support the plans of the United Workers Front, FUT. He accused President Oswaldo Hurtado of serving antipopular interests. Here is what is said:

[Begin (Barrionuevo) recording] Developments are confirming what we have denounced to the effect that President Hurtado's Christian Democratic government is abetting the harsh measures imposed by the IMF. These include the currency devaluation, the wage freeze, the prices increases for staples and fuels, etc. In other words, the Ecuadorean people oppose the way the government is managing the country.

As political and cultural adviser of the vice presidency of the republic and as leader of People, Change and Democracy Movement, we take advantage of the occasion to reject the new measures the Monetary Board will issue. As of this moment, I wish to call on the organized democratic forces, the democratic political parties, the labor unions and all progressive organizations to close ranks to oppose the new measures. [end recording]

PERU ANNOUNCES DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH GRENADA

PY181336 Lima Radio Union in Spanish 1200 GMT 18 Mar 83

[Text] The Peruvian Foreign Ministry has announced the establishment of diplomatic relations at embassy level with the Republic of Grenada. To this effect, the Peruvian representative to the OAS has exchangdd the appropriate notes with his counterpart from Grenada.

GENERAL DEFENDS PURCHASE OF ARGENTINE RIFLES

PY181448 Paris AFP in Spanish 1850 GMT 17 Mar 83

[Excerpts] Lima, 17 Mar (AFP) -- Peruvian Army Commander Gen Carlos Briceno Zevallos stated today in Lima that the contract for the purchase of Argentine rifles, submitted to an investigation by a congressional committee, is a perfect contract in which we have absolute confidence.

General Briceno Zevallos, who left for Washington on an 8-day official visit at the invitation of his U.S. counterpart, stated that we will present the necessary information on this perfectly clear contract when Congress so requires.

General Briceno Zevallos will have a heavy schedule in the United States, including a meeting with the defense secretary, visits to the Pentagon, to infantry garrisons or bases where the Peruvian commander will observe weapons and more sophisticated technology.

EXPELLED AUSTRALIAN PRIEST ARRIVES FROM CHILE

PY202257 Paris AFP in Spanish 1852 GMT 20 Mar 83

[Excerpt] Lima, 20 Mar (AFP) -- Brian McMahaon, an Australian Jesuit priest who was expelled by the Chilean Government, arrived here early this morning on a 30-day tourist visa.

BRIEFS

GOVERNMENT BUDGET DEFICIT -- The central government's budget in 1982 registered an economic deficit of 267,000,000,000 soles, which reportedly represents only 1.5 percent of the gross domestic product this year, estimated at $22,250,000. [Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 19 Feb 83 p A-12 PY]

PUBLIC INVESTMENT -- Economy, Finance and Commerce Minister Carlos Rodriguez Pastor has said that public investments in 1983 will represent 8.3 percent of the GDP [gross domestic product]. This percentage translates into $1.6 billion. [Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 21 Feb 83 p A-4 PY]

UNESCO, USSR GRANT SCHOLARSHIPS -- UNESCO and the Soviet Union are offering 50 scholarships in the fields of journalism, radiobroadcasting, radio communication, photography, movie and printing techniques. The studies will be carried out in the Soviet Union. The grantees will receive a monthly payment of 80 to 90 rubles. The courses will last between 4 and 1/2 and 5 and 1/2 years, preceded by a year for learning Russian. These courses will begin between 15 August and 1 September 1983. [Lima EL DIARIO DE LA MARKA 27 Feb 83 p 6 PY]

AMBASSADORS CLARIFY PRESENCE OF BRITISH SHIPS

PY181805 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 18 Mar 83

[Excerpts] The Uruguayan ambassador to Argentina and the Argentine ambassador to Uruguay have noted that Uruguay did not offer any logistic support to British ships that were taking supplies to the Malvinas; while the British ambassador to Uruguay has noted that the presence of British ships in Uruguayan ports has always been completely normal and that this situation should continue in the future.

Walter Ravenna, Uruguayan ambassador to Argentina, last night denied Argentine press reports stating that Uruguay is offering logistic support to British ships taking supplies to the Malvinas Islands.

Asked about recent reports, UK Ambassador to Uruguay Patricia Hutchinson noted that the situation is completely normal.

[Begin Hutchinson recording] Well, as we all know, British merchant ships have operated in Uruguayan ports for decades. Therefore, I believe it is completely normal for them to continue doing so. [end recording]

BRIEFS

IRANIAN OIL PURCHASES -- The Uruguayan delegation visiting Teheran has signed an agreement to purchase 1.59 million liters of oil per day worth $100 million. The agreement also provides for the sale of Uruguayan products to Iran worth $75 million. [Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 17 Mar 83 PY]

$10 MILLION IDB LOAN -- It has been confirmed in Panama that the IDB has granted Uruguay a $10 million loan to finance a scientific and technological research program to develop the Uruguayan fishing industry. The loan contract was signed by Uruguayan Economy and Finance Minister Walter Lusiardo Aznarez and IDB President Antonio Ortiz Mena. [Montevideo El Espectador Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 19 Mar 83 PY]

CONFERENCE TO CONDEMN U.S. INTERVENTION IN C.A.

FL181439 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0415 GMT 18 Mar 83

[Text] Mexico City, 17 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- The International Conference on Human Rights, Nuclear Disarmament and the Right to Life, which is being held in this capital, is drafting a document condemning the interventionist policy of the United States. Justice Desai, an Indian and representative of the WPC president, said in the discussions that the violation of human rights in El Salvador must be denounced and expressed support for a call to stop foreign intervention in the area. The international conference set up three work groups today. They will discuss draft resolutions that will be presented at the closing meeting tomorrow. There will be a statement on the defense of human rights and the respect for the right to life. Desai was a member of group number one which discussed human rights and analyzed international problems, particularly those of Central America.

According to documents presented by the Salvadoran Human Rights Commission (nongovernmental), the military and paramilitary forces killed approximately 45,000 civilians and there are approximately 5,000 missing people. This occurred during the period between October 1979 and December 1982. The main issue of concern was the death on 13 March of Marianella Garcia Diaz, president of the Salvadoran commission. She was allegedly killed in a clash between guerrillas and army forces. The documents presented by the commission noted that Garcia Diaz, who was 34 years old, was tortured and killed by the military when the Air Force attacked Las Bermudas refuge in Suchitoto and massacred some 90 people.

Today, the conference's work groups were contemplating the possibility of condemning the U.S. interventionist policy in El Salvador and the systematic and increasing violation of human rights in that Central American country.

It is also believed that the conference will issue a call to the nuclear powers to continue negotiations on nuclear disarmament in order to preserve peace in the world and prompt social and economic development.

FURTHER MORATORIUM ON DEBT REPAYMENT REQUESTED

FL181135 Bridgetown CANA in English 1058 GMT 18 Mar 83

[By Simon Alterman]

[Text] Mexico City, March 18, CANA-REUTER -- Mexico last night formally asked the banks to which it owes more than 80 billion dollars for more time to work out an agreement to delay repayment almost a quarter of its debts, a senior government official said.

Angel Gurria, a director at the Finance Ministry, told REUTERS that telexes had been sent to 1,400 creditor banks asking for a further moratorium on repaying public sector loans while talks on rescheduling the debts continue.

Mexico has made almost no capital repayments on its foreign debt since last August, since a weak oil market meant that its main export was not providing enough hard currency.

The creditors granted a 90-day moratorium from August 23 and extended it for a further 120 days until March 23. Mexico has now asked for a further extension until August 15, almost one year after the crisis broke.

Banking sources said the new moratorium became necessary when it took longer than expected to arrange a five billion dollar loan from international banks to help Mexico through 1983.

The deal, finally signed on March 3, set August 15 as the deadline to reschedule 20 billion dollars of public sector debt falling due before 1985.

Mexico presented its plan to repay the debt over eight years in December when it requested the five billion dollar loan which the International Monetary Fund (IMF) had insisted on before agreeing to lend Mexico money itself.

The paperwork involved in putting together a loan with such a large number of banks, and the reluctance of some bankers to lend still more to one of the world's biggest debtors, prolonged negotiations and talks on the rescheduling have only just begun.

Bankers accept that the debts will have to be rescheduled, especially since Mexico has had to follow other oil producers in cutting prices.

Oil accounts for about three quarters of Mexico's hard currency earnings and the government estimates that the price cut will cost the country 1.3 billion dollars in lost revenue this year.

But it hopes to make up for this by the worldwide decline in interest rates, which it expects to reduce its 1983 bills by 1.5 billion dollars. It has promised to keep interest up to date on all its debts.

NEW ENVOY TO USSR CALLS FOR EXPANDED RELATIONS

PA201622 Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 18 Mar 83 pp 5, 29

[By EXCELSIOR correspondent Hernan Rodriguez M.]

[Excerpts] Moscow, 17 Mar -- "Both the Soviet Union and Mexico emerged from eminently popular, long and costly revolutions, which made it possible to establish the social and political regimes that our peoples wanted," Horacio Flores de la Pena, the new Mexican ambassador in the USSR said upon presenting his letter of credentials to Vasiliy Kuznetsov, first deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet.

Further on the new ambassador said: "The similarity in our foreign policy goals and our relations, which in 1984 will mark their 60th anniversary, have contributed to the struggle for peace, disarmament and self-determination and against racism and neocolonialsim."

Flores de la Pena added: "Our cultural and scientific relations are doing well. It is advisable to expand them because they are the best means to enable the peoples to truly get to know each other and the best way for the poor countries to speed their development with the least sacrifice. That is, taking advantage of the industrialized countries' scientific and technological advances.

"Much remains to be done in the economic area. It would be mutually advantageous to diversity and increase our exchanges. We want more trade based on a better price relationship that reduces the need for external financing. We accept greater interdependence, but demand that our sovereignty over our natural resources not be discussed, that the peoples not be punished for political reasons and that aid, when necessary, not be given a political or, much less, a military price.

"To a large extent, both Mexico and the USSR complement each other. A greater exchange between our countries would be a good example of what the North-South relations between countries with different degrees of development and different economic systems can be."

PEMEX REPORTS PROVEN OIL RESERVES REMAIN STABLE

FL182153 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1823 GMT 18 Mar 83

[Text] Tula, Hidalgo, 18 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- The country's proven reserves of hydrocarbons continue to remain stable at 72 billion barrels, Pemex Director Mario Ramon Beteta reported today to President Miguel de la Madrid Hurtado in this city.

In his report on the activities of the state enterprise, Ramon Beteta stated that during 1982 some 18 oil fields had been discovered, 16 of them on land and the rest out at sea. Ten of the wells produce oil and gas, which keeps the national reserves in balance.

During the ceremony held in this city, 60 kms northwest of Mexico City, Ramon Beteta stressed that the reserves guarantee the country supplies of oil and gas for the next 50 years, inasmuch as the current levels of exploitation amount to 2.75 million barrels per day.

In 1982, he added, the crude exports averaged 2,746,000 barrels daily, which represents an increase of 19 percent over the average in 1981, which amounted to 2,312,000 barrels daily.

With respect to gas, the Pemex director explained that its use was almost nil, only 42 percent. Work, which will make its full use possible, is currently underway. Gas production increased from 4 billion cubic feet per day in 1981 to 4.25 billion in 1982, which represents an increase of 6.6 percent.

Ramon Beteta announced that in 1982 the refineries processed 1.2 million barrels of crude daily. The amount of processed liquified gas was less than 6 percent of that processed in 1981 mainly due to market declines.

The official also announced that the Pajaritos Petrochemical Complex in the State of Veracruz had begun operations in the third direct coloration plant, in the second oxicoloration plant and in the third vinyl chloride plant, which are producing enough to satisfy the national industry's demand.

He also said that in 1982 3.4 billion cubic feet of gas were processed, an amount larger by 5 percent over 1981. The yearly daily average [as received] recovered of liquified gas amounted to 255,000 barrels, which represents an increase of 5.5 percent over the previous year, he added.

Pemex Director's Views

FL191420 Bridgetown CANA in English 1130 GMT 19 Mar 83

[By Simon Alterman]

[Text] Mexico City, March 19, CANA-REUTER -- Mexico yesterday marked the 45th anniversary of the nationalisation of the oil industry with sharp words from the head of the state oil company about the corruption which has plagued his organisation.

Mario Ramon Beteta, director of Petroleos Mexicanos, Pemex, also pointed to deficiencies in organisation and infrastructure which have aggravated the problems caused by the world oil glut.

Non-OPEC Mexico is the world's fourth largest oil producer and, laden with a foreign debt of more than 80 billion dollars which it cannot repay, has been hurt more than most by the drop in the price of oil and the threat of further fall.

Speaking before invited guests including President Miguel de la Madrid at the giant Tula oil refinery just north of the capital, Mr Beteta said the rapid growth of the Mexican oil industry had caused problems in organisation and planning.

"This (problematic) situation is made worse by human failings which have occurred within the organisation, which not infrequently have fallen into the circle of corruption," he said.

Industry analysts say that in a country where public administration is notoriously corrupt, Pemex has had a particularly bad record which both the president and Mr Beteta have pledged to improve.

One groups of Pemex employees have recently been charged with taking bribes in exchange for favours over contracts and one of Mexico's small opposition parties yesterday called for a former director of Pemex, Jorge Diaz Serrano, to stand trial.

The Social Democratic Party said Mr Diaz Serrano, who lost his job in 1981 and is now a senator and immune from prosecution, should be charged with treason, fraud and abusing his authority.

Mr Beteta also pointed to Mexico's problems in storing, transporting and distributing its products and an inflated bureacracy which has reduced its competitiveness in the world.

He had no major announcements in his speech, an annual event which is often used to set new targets or reveal important policy decisions.

Its tone reflected the uncertainty in a world market awash with oil which some industry analysts believe may produce new price cuts to follow those announced this week.

After weeks of bargaining, the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) reached a pricing and production accord on Monday cutting prices by five dollars a barrel.

Mexico lowered its prices immediately, although by an average of only 2.75 dollars a barrel.

Mr Beteta noted that Mexico had adopted a policy of close cooperation with OPEC and non-OPEC producers since Mr de la Madrid took office last December and said it intended to price its oil in accordance with the prevailing market trends.

He said the short-term production target remains 2.75 million barrels of oil daily and the export target 1.5 million, both unchanged from last year, but longer term goals would not be fixed until the oil market settled down.

Cabinet Discussion of Prices

PA191408 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 16 Mar 83 pp 1, 8

[By correspondent Angelica Quezada]

[Excerpt] Monterrey, 15 Mar -- Jesus Silva Herzog, secretary of finance and public credit, has said that the drop in foreign exchange income from oil exports will not prevent Mexico from fulfilling its commitments to the IMF and that it will not be necessary to ask the United States for financial assistance because Mexico has the necessary conditions to avoid a change in its fundamental economic strategy. Silva Herzog was interviewed on his arrival at this city's Alfa cultural center to attend the annual meeting of the Chamber of the Manufacturing [transformacion] Industry (CAIMBRA) of Nuevo Leon.

Silva Herzog added that the $2.75 per barrel reduction in the price of Mexican oil means that the country will fail to receive $1.3 billion this year, but that this will be offset by the 2 percent drop in world interest rates, which will involve a savings of $1.05 million in servicing the country's foreign debt.

He added that the adverse effects of the drop in oil revenues can be prevented "if we take advantage of all the country's export possibilities."

The official said: "We do not intend to change fundamental strategy," asserting that although the drop in the oil prices will contribute to the recovery of the industrialized countries' economies, it will also give our manufactured goods greater access to those markets and attract more international tourism to Mexico.

Hector Hernandez Cervantes, commerce and industrial promotion secretary, said that the government will not pursue protectionism at any cost and will not completely deregulate staple prices either. He added that there will be two kinds of exchange rates as long as there is a scarcity of foreign exchange in the country. "It is impossible to establish a single exchange rate at the moment," Hernandez Cervantes said. He acknowledged that the drop in oil revenues will have a direct impact on the budget.

Legislators' Comments

PA190226 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1942 GMT 18 Mar 83

[Excerpt] Mexico City, 18 Mar (EFE) -- The San Jose Oil Agreement between Mexico and Veneuzela should prohibit the use of the crude supplied under the agreement for "war purposes," Mexican legislators said today.

Hermenegildo Anguiano, chairman of the Energy Committee, and Luis Danton, chairman of the Chamber of Deputies Foreign Relations Committee, said that the oil agreement will remain in force in spite of the drop in the world oil price.

Anguiano said that Mexico "has never failed to comply with a pact or agreement signed in an international organization."

Danton said that Central American and Caribbean countries that benefit from the oil agreement "are experiencing a crisis more acute than our own. They need support and aid, but a revision of the conditions of the pact will have to be made to make certain that the oil is used in a positive manner."

He added that the drop in oil prices "necessarily obliges us to revise the sales prices to the Central American countries."

UNIVERSITY RECTOR DENOUNCES POLICE REPRESSION

PA192237 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 18 Mar 83 p 5

[By correspondent Salomon Garcia]

[Text] Iguala, 17 Mar -- In less than 12 hours the Judicial Policy have twice repressed Guerrero Autonomous University (UAG) students. Thirty students were arrested, 50 injured and 6 vehicles destroyed.

Last night approximately 300 UAG students were returning from Ciudad Altamirano, where they had demonstrated for a subsidy for the university, when they were intercepted at this township's entrance by police, who arrested 30 persons. Today, the students held a rally in front of the city hall to demand the release of their companions, and were dispersed by the Judicial Police with teargas and nightsticks.

UAG Rector Enrique Gonzalez Ruiz said that 50 persons were injured in that "brutal action," including Francisco Mirabal, private secretary of the rector's office.

Ten students were arrested and six university vehicles were destroyed. He accused Antonio Escobedo Velazquez, deputy director of public security of the state, of responsibility for these actions.

Gonzalez Ruiz said that after the incidents, he met with Governor Alejandro Cervantes Delgado, who ordered that the arrested students be released.

This afternoon the rector headed a march of some 300 university students in Chipancingo. This culminated in a rally in front of the Government Palace where the demonstrators demanded an end to the repression, payment for treatment of those injured and reparation for damage caused by the police to the UAG vehicles.

SEPULVEDA MEETS WITH UN'S PEREZ DE CUELLAR

FL191400 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0300 GMT 19 Mar 83

[Excerpt] Mexico City, 18 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- Mexico has reaffirmed its support for the United Nations to resolve international conflicts through peaceful means and to fight for a new world economic order. Mexico also expressed its concern over the Central American problem.

The Secretariat of Foreign Relations announced that Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda Amor met today in New York with UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar and reaffirmed Mexico's foreign policy principles.

During the meeting, Sepulveda Amor delivered Mexico's ratification of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea treaty signed by 119 countries on 10 December 1982.

The Mexican foreign secretary expressed concern over the situation in Central America, characterized by a growing arms race and the intervention of foreign power.

The UN secretary general and the Mexican foreign minister agreed, the release added, on the need to find peaceful and negotiated solutions according to the principles and objectives of the UN Charter approved in 1948.

The Foreign Secretariat's press release stated that Mexico, as a supporter of the Law of the Sea Convention, became one of the first countries to turn in the ratification document -- after Fiji. The United Nations needs the ratification of 60 countries before the convention can become effective next December.

DEPUTY SEES U.S. HAND IN TROUBLES WITH GUATEMALA

PA201741 Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 18 Mar 83 p 3

[By Manuel Alfonso C.]

[Text] Deputy Jorge Cruickshank Garcia, leader of the Popular Socialist Party, warned yesterday that the constant references by Ronald Reagan, George Shultz, Thomas Enders and Senator Jackson, among others, to the dangers along our southern border are only an attempt to pressure our government into changing its foreign policy and endorsing the United States' interventionist policy on Latin America, especially Central America.

Questioned during a recess of the Third International Conference on Human Rights, Disarmament and the Right to Life, Cruickshank said that, nevertheless, Mexico has stood firmly against the U.S. pressures. He said that the constant violations of our territory by Guatemalan troops fall within this context.

Cruickshank said that Mexico has to be both energetic and prudent in view of this situation because, on one hand, it cannot allow these violations of international law to continue. On the other, Mexico must avoid getting involved in a confrontation, which is what the Reagan administration wants.

The United States wants Mexico to react militarily to defend its sovereignty against the aggressions of the General Efrain Rios Montt's dictatorial government, which are already unbearable. The United States then plans to use this pretext to claim that it must intervene because its own security is in danger.

Historically, North American imperialism has used the Guatemalan dictatorships to create problems along Mexico's southern border, which "is perhaps the fourth border to which Reagan refers," because they do not want to lose it for anything. The objective is to have oil within their reach at any given moment in order to pursue their warlike objectives.

BRIEFS

INFLATION RATES -- The Bank of Mexico has issued a report stating that the average inflation rate in Mexico has gone down to 16.8 percent. The highest indexes were registered in San Luis Potosi and Matamoros, while Veracruz, Navojoa and Aguascalientes registered the lowest. The rate in Mexico City was 18.3 percent. [Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 3 Mar 83 pp 4, 20 PA]

MATUTINO SCORES 'DANGEROUS' NAVAL EXERCISES

PA181816 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 17 Mar 83 p 8A

["Let the People Judge" column, by Ricardo Lince: "The Canal's Neutrality"]

[Text] There have been reports in the press about naval exercises in the Caribbean basin under the direction of the U.S. Armed Forces in which ships of several allied countries are participating. This deployment of forces is intended to be a warning to the USSR, Cuba and Nicaragua, according to statements made yesterday by top U.S. Navy officers.

These military exercises are based on the assumption that there could be an enemy attack in the area. The center of these naval maneuvers is Guantanamo, Cuba, a territory that the United States has been holding as a fort, and which, like the rock of Gibraltar, has become a nationalist cause, as the Panama Canal was for Panamanians.

Undoubtedly, the strong world reaction criticizing Nicaragua for the treatment received by the head of the Catholic Church, Rome and the Vatican during his visit to Managua has provided a climate that -- even if it does not justify it -- weakens the resistance to a military solution by the United States to eliminate communism from the region.

This large-scale movement of ships, equipment and aircraft heading for areas near the Panama Canal is dangerous and should be a matter of concern to Panamanians, since it could affect the canal's neutrality. We should reaffirm our country's moral obligation to refrain from any policy that would get us involved in any military undertaking. Panama can guarantee its security based on this neutrality principle, and it should avoid supporting the warmongerers.

The media should cooperate in this respect, by guiding and educating the Panamanian people with regard to the idea that we should be extremely careful in dealing with military situations near our country, in areas bordering the canal. We should refrain from vehemently defending any of the sides, since the only stand we should adopt as out firm and unchangeable national goal is that of maintaining the neutrality of the Panama Canal at all costs. This is the wisest stand for our people, and we should stress the need to maintain peace in the canal above anything else.

JOBLESS SUGARWORKERS PROTEST AT U.S. EMBASSY

PA190058 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 18 Mar 83

[Text] Workers who were left jobless by the closing of the Felipillo sugar mill demonstrated this afternoon in front of the U.S. Embassy. This was the third demonstration of this type held by the workers in their struggle to reopen the Felipillo sugar mill during the coming harvest. The protest at the North American deplomatic mission was intended to make the United States grant a larger quota to Panama on its sugar market, thereby allowing the Felipillo sugar mill to resume operations.

EFFORTS TO SOLVE SUGAR CRISIS REPORTED

PA200433 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 18 Mar 83 pp 1, 21

[By Jorge Mombeliard

[Text] Panama's foreign and agriculture development ministers yesterday initiated a major effort to resolve the sugar crisis that has emerged in the country as a result of the international sugar price catastrophe.

Foreign Minister Juan Amado told CRITICA that he will take advantage of his trip to New York in the near future to go to Washington and seek an increase in the sugar export quota assigned to Panama. Our country had been sending approximately 130,000 metric tons of sugar to the U.S. market, but this figure dropped to 81,000 metric tons because of the quota imposed by the United States. The United States took this measure to protect its interests and its producers.

Minister Amado, who explained the canal's neutrality to a large group of ambassadors, trusts that the good bilateral relations will contribute to the measure's reconsideration.

As everybody knows, the U.S. quota drop, together with the fall of the price of sugar in the market, has forced the government to close the Felipillo sugarmill and to plan the closure of another three state sugarmills. A pound of sugar sells on the market for 7 or 8 cents, resulting in 12 or 11 cent losses for each pound of sugar produced.

Sugar exported (to the United States) sells for 18 cents.

Negotiations with Costa Rica

Agricultural Development Minister Franz Omar Perez has said that Panama feels it has the right to ask the United States to increase its sugar export quota because of the friendship and good relations that exist between the two countries. The minister said: We want a reconsideration of the measure, that is, the raising of the sugar quota even if only to the level of Costa Rica, which was assigned a quota of almost 100,000 metric tons.

Franz Omar Perez said that Costa Rica does not produce more sugar than Panama and for this reason it cannot fully comply with a deficit of 60,000 tons of sugar [sentence as published]. Minister Perez said that Panama has initiated talks with Costa Rica to find a profitable market for the 50,000 tons of sugar not included in the U.S. quota.

CANAL ADVISORY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE NAMED

PA181523 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 17 Mar 83 p 4

[Text] President Ricardo de la Espriella has appointed Edwin Fabrega, general director of the Institute of Hydraulic Resources and Electrification, as one of Panama's representatives at the Panama Canal Advisory Council.

The Panama Canal Advisory Council was created in accordance with article three, paragraph seven of the Panama Canal treaty. The other two Panamanian members of the council will be Luis Anderson, deputy labor and social welfare minister, and Augusto Zambrano.

In performing their duties, the appointees will be guided by the general policy and specific instructions they receive from the executive branch.

REFERENDUM ON CONSTITUTION SET FOR 17 APRIL

PA181553 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 17 Mar 83 pp 14, 6A

[By Reinaldo Labastide]

[Text] Cesar Quintero, president of the electoral tribunal, yesterday said that the referendum to approve or reject the reforms to the national Constitution will be held on 17 April.

Quintero said that cedulas will be used to vote in the referendum. He added that there will be no lists of voters because the 12 December census has yet to be processed, and the results of that census are going to be used in the 1984 national elections.

He added that the cabinet will probably issue a resolution on the referendum, and the electoral tribunal will issue regulations on it.

Quintero indicated that the people will vote freely in the referendum, and that a little over 4,500 polls of voting centers will be installed in the country. He said that the people will only need to present their cedula to vote. He said that machines will be used to make a special perforation in the cedulas. He said that when the citizen votes, his name and signature will be registered, but that his name will not be looked up in a list since there will be no list.

The president of the electoral tribunal explained that efforts are being made so that the referendum will cost as little as possible, and that it will probably cost no more than 2 million balboas.

Quintero stressed that about 18,000 people will be working in the voting centers, which will have a president, a secretary and their alternates. He said that these personnel will mainly be teachers. He said that talks have already been held with Education Minister Susana Richa de Torrijos and the teachers organizations.

Quintero, who does not yet have a copy of the reforms to the national Constitution, indicated that the deadline for the reform commission to deliver the documents is 31 March, but that they will be presented before that date.

He added that the electoral tribunal is working intensively to choose good polls and to distribute them well throughout the country.

HASTINESS OF CONSTITUTIONAL REFERENDUM DECRIED

PA182300 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 18 Mar 83 p 1

["As of Today" column]

[Text] While 17 April has already been set as the date to hold the referendum on the [constitutional] reforms, sources close to the Constitutional Reform Commission are reporting serious disagreements among its members regarding the public force's institutional functions. It is true that some information on the commission's work has been published, but a final report has not yet been issued, nor can it be issued until the commission concludes its work. Presumably this will occur on or shortly before 31 March 1983, the date on which the term to present the results of the commission's work to the executive branch expires. Immediately after this begins the long and traditional Easter weekend break that diverts the people's attention to affairs that are completely alien to politics. After this the Panamanians will have a scant 2 weeks to read, discuss and analyze the complex subject of the constitutional reform proposals. This brief period of time is ominously reminiscent of the distressing term provided to examine and debate the Panama Canal treaties. The expeditious mechanisms that the electoral tribunal plans to utilize for the referendum are also distressing. Without taking into consideration the contents of the reforms, which we do not yet know, we must state our concern for the haste and superficiality that is apparently being used in dealing with a matter of such serious consequences.

PRD PROPOSES GEN PAREDES FOR PRESIDENT

PA202157 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 20 Mar 83 p 10A

[By Jose Montero]

[Text] Constituents and executives of the Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD) have proposed Gen Ruben Dario Paredes as candidate for the presidency of the republic in a resolution delivered to the National Guard Commandancy and received by Col Manuel Antonio Noriega, chief of the General Staff.

The representatives who drafted the 1972 Constitution, who had held a congress in the legislative palace, had approved a resolution, but it was later canceled when they learned of General Paredes' request to suspend the march against the constitutional amendments, which had been promoted by the 505 Corregimiento representatives.

However, after the PRD members who participated in drafting the Constitution learned that General Parades had invited them to the Commandancy to explain the "political strategy" of the march's cancellation, they again proposed the military candidacy of the guard commander, "recommending him as the PRD's official candidate" for the presidency of the republic in the 1984 elections.

Once this had been settled, PRD Secretary General Rigoberto Paredes and other party executives went to the Legislative Palace to accompany the PRD members who participated in drafting the Constitution to the general headquarters. They were carried in two buses furnished by a government agency.

However, when they arrived at headquarters, the drafters of the Constitution were not received by General Paredes or by the General Staff, but by Colonel Noriega on the stairs leading to the Commandancy. After receiving the document, Noriega laconically thanked the PRD members for their visit.

In Assembly circles, the visit of the drafters of the Constitution to the National Guard Commandancy brought about a certain division between the PRD and the current Corregimiento representatives, who disagree "quietly" with the PRD's actions and the path to be followed in the current political situation that the "people's power" is facing.

MATUTINO FINDS CONFLICT IN COMMUNISTS' STAND

PA201602 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 19 Mar 83 p 8A

[From "Lightning" column by Luis A. Ardines R.]

[Text] On the subject of national unity, Communist Party member Cleto M. Souza stressed in the newspaper UNIDAD: "The working class and the people's movement are willing to participate in national unity and to make all kinds of sacrifices to save the country from the catastrophe that is currently threatening it. They are willing to do this within the framework that made it possible to forge the 'people-government link' led by the unforgettable Gen Omar Efrain Torrijos Herrera..." Nonetheless, the paper also carries a news item under a big headline stating that "we will vote for the current Constitution." One of its paragraphs reads: "For these reasons we will vote against the tendencies of the majority within the revisory commission. We will vote to preserve the current Constitution's democratic contents..."

COSTA RICA

FIGHTING IN NICARAGUA PRODUCES MORE REFUGEES

PA201606 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1330 GMT 20 Mar 83

[Text] Hundreds of Nicaraguans asked for refuge this week. A massive flow of Nicaraguans into Costa Rican territory has been reported.

Justice Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez has told the Security Council, which met on Wednesday, that over 600 Nicaraguans arrived in Costa Rica in the last 5 days.

The flow of Nicaraguans into our country may increase in the next few days because of the increased fighting between anti-Sandinists and the Nicaraguan Army, Gutierrez said. This means that Costa Rica may have a new refugee problem now that the situation with the Salvadorans has stabilized.

VOLIO DENOUNCES NEW INCIDENT ON SAN JUAN RIVER

PA191831 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1647 GMT 19 Mar 83

[Text] San Jose, 19 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- Today Costa Rican Foreign Minister Fernando Volio denounced a new incident "provoked by Sandinist troops" along the San Juan River.

Volio received new documents from the Barra del Colorado S.A. firm, which has been organizing tourist trips for 8 years from "La Barra," near the mouth of the San Juan River, to Puerto Viejo de Sarapiqui, both in Costa Rica.

According to the report Volio received, in recent days the Sandinists have been interfering with these trips and "rudely mistreating" the tourists who go to that region to admire the scenery.

Despite the fact that the Barra del Colorado S.A. boats sail close to the Costa Rican shore, the Nicaraguan soldiers intercept them and force passengers to get off on the other side of the river where they are searched and North Americans are insulted, according to the charge.

Foreign Minister Volio told ACAN-EFE that yesterday he asked the attorney general of the republic to prepare an official report to "reiterate to the Sandinists their obligation to respect Costa Rica's navigation rights on the San Juan River."

VOLIO ON UPCOMING FOREIGN MINISTERS SUMMIT

PA192102 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1702 GMT 19 Mar 83

[Text] San Jose, 19 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- The selection of the Dominican Republic as the venue of the next meeting of Caribbean-Region [as received] foreign ministers recognizes the democratic tradition of the Dominican Government.

Costa Rican Foreign Minister Fernando Volio told ACAN-EFE today that he and his Salvadoran and Honduran counterparts, Fidel Chavez Mena and Edgardo Paz Barnica, agreed on this when they met here in late February.

The Santo Domingo conference will gather the foreign ministers of the five Central American countries which are involved in the regional conflict. Seven other countries will attend as observers and guarantors of the commitments to be made.

Volio told ACAN-EFE that these seven witnesses, to whom Volio sent official invitations yesterday, are the foreign ministers of Mexico, Belize, Jamaica, Dominican Republic, Venezuela, Colombia and Panama.

Minister Volio affirmed that, although no official response has been received from Guatemala and Nicaragua, it was learned through unofficial diplomatic channels that both countries are positively disposed to the meeting. After the replies are received, the date of the meeting will be established.

PASTORA GIVEN 'SEVERE WARNING' ON BEHAVIOR

PA200256 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 19 Mar 83

[Text] The Costa Rican Government issued a severe warning to Commander Eden Pastora this afternoon about the way he should behave while residing in the country. The document, delivered by Vice President Armando Arauz Aguilar, stressed that, within Costa Rica's system of public freedoms the government has allowed foreign residents to organize politically and to make statements to the press criticizing the governments they oppose.

However, such activities have a limit; they should not endanger Costa Rica's foreign relations with neighboring countries or the neutrality that the government desires to maintain regarding other nation's political processes.

The warning issued to Commander Pastora indicates that failure to honor this restriction will be considered a violation of the obligations accepted on acquiring residence.

Although Commander Pastora did not specify the action that he plans to take after 15 April, the government wishes to reiterate that it will not allow Costa Rican territory to be used as a base for subversive actions against any neighboring country, the note says.

Any action of this type would result in the cancellation of residence rights in Costa Rica and the immediate expulsion of those involved [word indistinct] they are subject to even greater penal liabilities, the note adds.

Vice President Armando Arauz Aguilar has said that the warning issued to Commander Pastora should be considered applicable to all foreigners residing in Costa Rica who (?are expected to) proceed in the same manner.

The government added that under no circumstances will it permit Costa Rica's territory and its freedoms to be exploited improperly. Because we have no [word indistinct] here, it is the government's duty to guarantee the (?rights) of Costa Ricans and foreign residents, but there must be total support for our laws, the vice president said.

EL SALVADOR

D'AUBUISSON ON ELECTIONS, POTENTIAL CANDIDACY

PA210319 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 Mar 83

[Station interview with Maj Roberto d'Aubuisson, president of the Salvadoran National Constituent Assembly -- live]

[Text] [Question] How is the Nationalist Republican Alliance Arena, the party you founded and lead and through which you became president of the National Constituent Assembly, proceeding to choose a candidate to represent it in the coming presidential elections?

[Answer] On Saturday 26 March we will hold our party's special convention. However, that convention will not determine our candidates for the presidential elections. We will set the bases and parameters for a later convention to be convoked, possibly in May, in which we will nominate our presidential and vice-presidential candidates.

[Question] There is a legal point that stipulates that any government official must resign at least a year before becoming a candidate. What is your personal opinion on this? What will the Constituent Assembly do since we are already 9 months away from the elections?

[Answer] That has to do with the new constitution. We are awaiting its signature on 22 April. If I remember correctly, it says that for government officials it is 1 year before, and for high ranking military leaders it is 2 years. However, the assembly can arrange that. It is actually a political decision by the political parties that, once the constitution is signed, to decree a shorter period of 15 days or a month for any official in the present government structure to become a candidate. This means that the constitution to be signed on 22 April will not apply in those cases. In other words, a special article can be passed, because as you know the elections have been advanced from the scheduled date of March 1984. I think this will be no problem. It is mostly an interparty political decision.

[Question] To conclude this interview, Major, it is said that you are one of the strongest candidates for the nomination. What can you tell us about this?

[Answer] Well, that is to be expected. I am the party's founder and current president. However, the general convention -- within the parameters to be established on Saturday the 26th -- will make a profound analysis of the delicate mission of choosing a presidential and vice-presidential candidate. The will of the majority of the party will decide.

COLONEL OCHOA DEMANDS DIALOGUE, CONDEMNS GARCIA

PA181504 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 18 Mar 83 pp 1-A, 8-A

[Report on "exclusive" interview by Demetrio Olacirequi with Salvadoran Army Col Sigifredo Ochoa, in Washington; date of interview not given]

[Text] The Salvadoran military chief who staged a rebellion in January against the Army high command says that he has enough support to restructure the military leadership. He also says that it is urgent to open a dialogue with the Salvadoran leftist guerrillas in a place like Panama.

In an exclusive interview given in Washington, Colonel Ochoa said that the agreement reached to solve the 10-day crisis that brought him into confrontation with Defense Minister Gen Jose Guillermo Garcia was that General Garcia would withdraw on 31 March, while Ochoa would accept the post he currently holds as head of the Salvadoran military representation at the Inter-American Defense Board.

He explained that the rebellion in January did not achieve all its objectives because it was staged on the eve of the anniversary of the insurgent offensive of 10 January 1981, and a few days before the certification on El Salvador that President Reagan's administration presented to Congress in order to continue sending military support to that country.

"I maintain my position that General Garcia is a small-time Hitler. He is corrupt, treacherous and arrogant," he said, while denying that he has any presidential ambitions.

"It is urgent to open a dialogue with the guerrillas as soon as possible in order to solve the war politically," he said.

Ochoa explained that "if the guerrillas do not accept this initiative, we will engage in total war." He also said that Panama is the best place in Latin America to open these contacts.

Ochoa said further that he maintains excellent relations with the general staff of the Panamanian National Guard, and that he shares the views on "a new mentality" introduced into the Panamanian public force by now-deceased Gen Omar Torrijos.

Ochoa's initiative calls for an arrangement reached through dialogue, first with the guerrillas and then with all the Salvadoran political forces, with an eye on the presidential elections slated for December. He suggested current Foreign Minister Fidel Chavez Mena as a candidate in these elections with a unified platform.

According to Ochoa, Chavez Mena, a moderate Christian Democrat connected with social democratic sectors, would be acceptable to the ultraright because of his relations with the private sector, but he would also represent the interests of the political center and left.

Although he did not specify which political forces support him, Ochoa said that he is in Washington as the representative of a large group of majors, lieutenant colonels and colonels of the Salvadoran Armed Force, who will again uphold the military proclamation that inspired the moderates within the army to stage a coup in 1979 against ultra-rightist Gen Carlos Romero.

"General Garcia deceived us all, even the United States. He has corrupted the general staff and must now go. If he does not agree to leave on good terms, we will force him to leave," Ochoa said defiantly.

Ochoa said that his movement, which according to the analysts in Washington is closely connected with the U.S. administration through the National Security Council and the Pentagon, is supported by the Air Force, the 1st Infantry Brigade, the 2nd Cavalry Brigade and the command headquarters in Morazan, San Miguel, San Vincente, Usulutan, Santa Ana and Sonsonate. He also claims to have the support of the elite Atlacatl, Ramon Belloso and Atonal Battalions, and of the special forces in San Francisco Gotera.

FOREIGN MINISTER ON U.S. AID, ELECTIONS

PA200311 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 20 Mar 83 pp 11, 13

[Text] "A decrease in U.S. economic aid would create greater balance of payments problems in this economic situation," Foreign Minister Fidel Chavez Mena said yesterday.

"During my last visit to Washington, I found a more open and favorable reception in Congress. I am optimistic that the aid to our country will be approved. During this visit I did not speak with President Reagan, but I did speak with Senators, and White House and State Department officials, and I found a favorable situation, one that is much better than that I found last year," he added.

"I told them of the regional situation and the need to obtain more technical assistance and economic and military aid. We are currently asking Congress for $60 million in military aid and additional aid of $50 million. U.S. aid could increase to approximately $240 million under the new program. This amount promises to ease the country's financial and economic situation. It will contribute efficiently to the solution of El Salvador's current economic crisis," the foreign minister said.

"I do not believe that the U.S. aid will be restricted or reduced, because we need more. If it is reduced, we will undoubtedly be affected. We are in a difficult economic situation.

A decrease could help create more balance of payments problem in our economic situation. In the military area, a decrease would affect us in the communications and transportation areas because we would have limitations," Chavez Mena said.

When asked about the advancement of the presidential elections, the minister said: "I believe the country will benefit from advancing the elections to this year. The elections will help consolidate the democratic process and the establishment of full democracy in the country."

He pointed out that "the government's Political Commission has offered guarantees to the leftists so that they will participate in the electoral process. This offer was made publicly last week. If they want to participate, I think they will respond to the offer themselves. I cannot say more because this is a speculative matter, and I like to talk in conclusive terms and not speculate."

Asked whether he believes that the elections could bring peace, he said, "I do not have the slightest doubt that the Salvadoran people will vote en masse during the coming elections, because they desire peace. The elections will undoubtedly contribute to attainment of that peace."

The journalists insisted that the foreign minister give his opinion on whether he could be presidential candidate of the Christian Democratic Party [PDC]. He replied: "I am one of the hopefuls and my party will make the decision it finds most convenient." Asked about the PDC's internal situation, the foreign minister emphatically responded: "On internal party matters I cannot make any type of comment."

COPREFA REPORTS DEATH OF FPL COMMANDER NELSON

PA191956 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 18 Mar 83 pp 2, 21

[Communique issued by the Armed Forces Press Committee; no date or place given]

[Excerpts] "Guerrilla Commander Nelson died in La Bermuda, Suchitoto, while trying to ambush a military patrol.

"Commander Nelson was in charge of the terrorist column to which internationalist Marianela Garcia Villas belonged. Nelson was trained in Cuba and Nicaragua for the Farabundo Marti Peoples Liberation Forces, FPL. On his body was a photograph of himself in front of two tents.

"In addition to the photograph, the terrorist leader also had a lot of information on terrorist actions to be carried out in the cantons between Suchitoto and Cojutepeque. He also had reports on supplies and terrorist activities to be carried out against grain fields in the zone.

"Investigations are in progress to establish the identity of other commanders who, like Nelson, are participating in the economic war against the peasants."

ARMY ACCUSED OF KILLING HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCATE

FL181303 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0336 GMT 18 Mar 83

[Text] Mexico City, 17 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- The Salvadoran human rights commission today accused the military of having tortured human rights advocate Marianella Garcia Diaz.

At a news conference here, commission members also charged that the United States is supplying chemical and bacteriological weapons, banned by international war treaties, to the Salvadoran Army. It is expected that evidence of this will be turned over to the United Nations within 15 days.

Fernando Augusto Mendez, who is the current president of the Salvadoran human rights commission in accordance with internal statutes, recalled Marianella's life. She was executed by the Salvadoran Army on 13 March.

He recalled that the Salvadoran commission was a candidate for the Nobel Peace Prize in 1981 and 1982 although the military officers in power view it as a promoter of violence and have sentenced its members to death.

Luz Maria Hernandez, a nun who is a member of the commission, accompanied Garcia Diaz from Mexico to El Salvador to collect testimony and evidence that the Salvadoran Army is using bacteriological weapons against civilians.

She said that several international organizations requested this evidence which will be presented at the United Nations within a minimum of 15 days.

She disclosed that during the period between 15 October (?1979) and 31 December 1982, the commission has confirmed that the military killed 43,337 civilians, that 3,200 people who were arrested disappeared and that there are 700 political prisoners.

This is proof of President Ronald Reagan's humanitarian and benevolent policy for the Salvadoran people who are trying to achieve social justice and economic development, she said.

Hernandez showed a medical certificate of the autopsy performed on Garcia Diaz. According to the autopsy she had fragments of rock in her head, her arms and legs had been mutilated with G-3 rifles and her lungs had been destroyed thus proving that she had been tortured, she added.

She questioned the validity of the human rights commission set up by the military government including Reynaldo Lopez Nuila, former director general of the national police, and other loyal supporters of the military. She concluded by asking: How can a murderer judge himself for the crimes he committed?

PAPER SAYS AIR FORCE BOMBS SAN VICENTE AREA

PA181258 San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish 16 Mar 83 p 3

[Text] Salvadoran Air Force Fouga planes, directed by observation helicopters, carried out an intense 2-hour bombing of rural area north of the city of San Vicente yesterday afternoon. Reports indicate that guerrilla hideouts were discovered in the area.

The sources said that the areas known as Los Pozos, Los Laureles and San Antonio Achichilco were the most heavily bombed. The armed forces earlier engaged the subversives in bitter fighting in cleanup operations in those areas.

Eyewitnesses report that the Fougas dived to drop their bombs, which produced huge columns of smoke and dust and literally "rocked the earth."

At the same time, three helicopters were flying nearby over a region east of San Vicente, apparently directing the air forces planes' operation. Many people gathered at the San Vicente railroad station to watch the bombing. It has been reported that at dawn today the people of San Vicente could hear explosions on the slopes of the Chichontepec volcano, where the armed forces are reportedly undertaking cleanup operations.

San Vicente residents and drivers reported today that the events that took place at dawn on Sunday at the El Cumbo hill military base and at the Jiboa sugarmill were very grave. Unconfirmed reports indicate that "the guerrillas captured 41 soldiers, who will be delivered to the International Red Cross, while also seizing a truck and inflicting military casualties."

GUATEMALA

GOVERNMENT DENIES RUMORS OF 23 MARCH COUP D'ETAT

PA181826 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1741 GMT 18 Mar 83

[Text] Guatemala City, 18 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- Today the Guatemalan Government denied persistent rumors circulating both here and abroad of an alleged coup that could oust Gen Efrain Rios Montt on 23 March, his first anniversary in power. According to a government spokesman, "these are simply groundless rumors. The situation in the government and within the army's ranks is normal."

Rumors about a possible bloodless coup that would remove General Rios Montt from the presidency, replacing him with Gen Luis Federico Fuentes Corado, the current director of the National Reconstruction Committee, have been circulating recently.

Official sources admit that there will be government changes on 23 March. It has even been announced that "several heads will roll." It has not been specified, however, that changes will take place.

According to the rumors currently circulating, Rios Montt's successor, if not Fuentes Corado, would be one of the other generals who make up the current military regime. This has been flatly denied by official spokesman Gonzalo Asturias.

The rumors also indicate that the main reasons that the "young militarymen" staged a coup last 23 March were the struggle against corruption and the desire to break the cordon of international isolation laid around Guatemala under Gen Fernando Romeo Lucas Garcia.

The previous regime's leading officials, who were charged with corruption, are currently abroad or are free in Guatemala. Only lesser officials have been imprisoned, a fact that, according to the rumors, has elicited dissatisfaction.

In view of the most recent incidents in this country -- the execution of six persons and the killing of four members of an AID mission -- the international isolation that was broken in the first months of the new regime is again being felt by Guatemala. Although the government has denied the rumors, they are still circulating persistently in Guatemala.

ARMY SLATED TO RETURN TO GARRISONS ON 23 MAR

PA192022 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 1230 GMT 19 Mar 83

[Text] The military who have been ruling the country since they seized power on 23 March 1982 after the overthrow of Gen Romeo Lucas will begin to return to their garrisons after 23 March 1983, Gen Mario Lopez Fuentes, chief of the Army General Staff, has said.

Lopez Fuentes said that he did not participate in the movement that overthrew the former president. He indicated that the army has practically fulfilled its promise to reorient the country; therefore, when the path to Guatemala's constitutionality is opened on 23 March, the army will begin its return to the garrisons. He also said that one of the main objectives of the military men is the country's economic reactivation.

Gen Mario Lopez Fuentes said that the government and the army are convinced that there will be a reemergence of subversive activity after 23 March. The general said that the army has information indicating that the guerrillas will reappear beginning on Wednesday when the government will return guarantees to the citizens who were deprived of them for 9 months as a result of the state of siege.

Even though the government and the army fear there will be a reactivation of the subversive operations beginning on 23 March, the government is determined that it will not deprive the Guatemalan people of their guarantees, Gen Mario Lopez Fuentes said. The military chief said that the government will return the guarantees on Wednesday, the first anniversary of the overthrow of Lucas Garcia and that no matter what happens, a constitutional president will be elected without reestablishing the state of siege that will disappear on Wednesday.

SPECIAL COURTS CONVICT FIVE, LEVY DEATH SENTENCE

PA191914 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 0050 GMT 19 Mar 83

[Excerpts] Five rapists and murderers have been condemned to death by the special courts. Here is the official Guatemalan Government bulletin:

The lower special court has issued the death sentence against (Mario Ramiro Martinez Gonzalez), alias El Chiqui; (Ronnie Alfredo Martinez Gonzalez), alias Cuyo; (Otto Pirul Ayala), alias Subaru; (Jesus Enrique Velasquez Gutierrez), alias El Gringo; and (Julio Ceasar Herrera Cardona), alias Levadura. They are guilty of the crimes of a double kidnapping, murder, attempted murder, repeated rape, repeated aggravated theft and violent immoral abuses.

As the public knows, this band, consisting of both civilians and some military men, had been operating in Guatemala City and had committed murders, rapes, kidnappings and various robberies. When the members were arrested by the government security forces they were turned over to the special courts, to establish their responsibilities.

The government publicly expressed thanks for the decisive cooperation of many affected families who spontaneously cooperated, identifying their attackers and asking that the full weight of the law fall on them.

The guilt of the prisoners was established through established legal procedures. They were identified by their many victims in the 2d police corps. During the trial, the defendants gave details of how they were organized, how long they had been operating and the number of robberies, holdups, murders, rapes and kidnappings they had staged.

The government security forces identified, located and arrested the members of the band and turned them over the the appropriate courts. The lower special court, after holding the trial and finding the five individuals guilty of the stated crimes, condemned them to death. Their execution is pending the decision of the special court of appeals.

AIRCRAFT REPORTED HIJACKED; DESTINATION UNKNOWN

PA182240 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2151 GMT 18 Mar 83

[Text] Guatemala City, 18 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- It was learned here today that a Guatemalan registry light aircraft on a domestic flight was hijacked and flown to Honduras. According to extraofficial sources known to ACAN-EFE, several people were in this light aircraft although their identities are not known. They were flying from Guatemala City to El Peten, in norhtern Guatemala, when the aircraft was hijacked for yet unknown reasons.

A civil aeronautics employee, who has asked not to be identified, told ACAN-EFE that the aircraft and crew were found 100 km from the Honduran border with Nicaragua. The aircraft was headed for Nicaragua, but because of a lack of fuel they were unable to get there. No official report on the matter has been issued and at this moment the reports obtained have not been confirmed.

Possibly Flown to Honduras

PA190457 Paris AFP in Spanish 0425 GMT 19 Mar 83

[Text] Guatemala City, 18 Mar (AFP) -- A twin-engine light aircraft on a local flight to Flores, Peten Department, has disappeared and it is feared that it has been hijacked and diverted to another Central American country, probably Honduras.

Although the authorities have not confirmed the hijacking, a source from the National Transport Enterprise (TAN), which owns the plane, has told AFP that the Piper twin-engine plane with registry No TG-CEB took off for Flores, in the country's north, and was supposed to make two stopovers. The plane never returned.

The civil aeronautics office believes it is too early to speak about a hijacking but it has admitted that "supposedly, that is what happened." The possibility of an accident has been discarded since the plane's occupants did not establish any kind of communication.

According to TAN, two young persons who identified themselves as Edgar Aguirre and Raul Patmo rented the plane yesterday to make some payments in the country's interior. It is believed that this was part of a plot to hijack the plane.

Some civil aeronautics sources have said that "there could be some other type of problem." Most of the personnel, however, believe that this is a hijacking case. If the hijacking is confirmed, this would be the first case of a hijacked light aircraft in the country.

ENVOY TO VATICAN 'INDIGNANT' AT DISMISSAL

LD171534 Vatican City in English to Central and West Europe 1445 GMT 17 Mar 83

[Text] Rome: The Guatemalan ambassador to the Holy See, dismissed 15 March for his alleged failure to inform his government immediately of a papal clemency request for six men who were executed, plans to sue the Guatemalan foreign minister for defamation in connection with the dismissal.

Seventy-nine year old Ambassador Luis Valladres Yaycinena said that he was indignant and surprised at the government's action. He strongly disputed his government's version of event leading up to the March execution of the six alleged terrorists and he stated that his note to the Guatemalan Foreign Minsitry had arrived 2 days before the execution, not 1 day afterwards as asserted by the government.

HONDURAS

AUTHORITIES DISCLAIM KNOWLEDGE OF HIJACKING

PA191557 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1528 GMT 19 Mar 83

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 19 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- Honduran military and civilian authorities claimed today to know nothing of an alleged landing in their territory of a Guatemalan aircraft that was hijacked yesterday.

Unofficial reports in Guatemala indicated that the aircraft, which was carrying several people, was taken towards Nicaragua but had to land 100 km on the Honduran side of the border.

None of the official Honduran airports registered the landing yesterday of any Guatemalan reportedly hijacked aircraft.

There are many level expanses in the southern region of Honduras that would allow small aircraft to land, in addition to various private landing strips belonging to ranch-owners; but no one has reported anything to the authorities thus far about the landing of a Guatemalan aircraft. Honduras has no system to detect aircraft and authorities cannot confirm or deny possible clandestine landings.

GOVERNMENT SEEKS TO PREVENT POLICE DEPORTATIONS

PA202152 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2104 GMT 20 Mar 83

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 20 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- The Honduran Foreign Secretariat today reported that it is trying to get the Belizean Government not to deport 100 Honduran families in the next few days. The Hondurans were working with the "Banana Control Board" transnational company, which recently laid off 250 workers, including the 100 Hondurans.

Antonio Canahuati, Honduran consul in Belize, said he discussed the possibility of reinstating the Hondurans with the banana company officials, but has "received no reply until now." The Foreign Secretariat will send a representative to Belize to prevent the deportation.

ECONOMISTS CRITICIZE MEASURES 'IMPOSED' BY U.S.

PA191342 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1145 GMT 18 Mar 83

[Excerpts] In an extensive document released during a news conference, local economists analyzed the factors contributing to the present Honduran crisis. The economists state that today we are observing complex economic phenomena that place a burden on the shoulders of the Honduran people. The low per-capita income has become more acute and has continued to drop below the subsistence level. Unemployment, underemployment, inflation, the unequal distribution of wealth, progressive population movement from rural to urban areas and intensive problems of nutrition, health, housing and education are presented to support the charges made in the document.

The economists maintain that, instead of improving, the national crisis has worsened in all areas. From 1981 to date, the crisis and the subsequent depression have become more acute; inflation has risen to two-digit levels, thus undermining the workers' purchasing power, and unemployment is estimated at 20 percent, the economists state.

A decrease in production is evident in the bankruptcy of many businesses because of restrictions on imports. The state itself has been forced to resort to more loans in order to solve domestic problems. This crisis is due to both internal and external factors, the economists maintain.

The local economists feel that the Reagan administration's proposals call for the elimination of necessary economic regulators. For example, the elimination of price controls; a review of ceilings to allow the prices of bread, milk, eggs, medicines, etc., to fluctuate according to market demands; and a revision of the tax structure to increase production incentives by increasing subsidies to companies are aspects of the economic policy reportedly dictated by the U.S. Embassy, according to the leaders of the Honduran Economists Association.

The economists continue their criticism by stating that these policies place greater emphasis on production than on social programs, since they recommend that the state eliminate unproductive bodies such as Conadi [National Investment Corporation], Cohbana [Honduran Banana Corporation], Cohdefor [Honduran Corporation of Forest Development] etc.

Other measures which the United States has imposed on the current government are the elimination of interest rates, leaving rates to be set by the private banking system; the revision of mining codes and taxes and import duties; and the promotion of foreign investment.

This model, the economists state, is inspired by the Milton Friedman school that has been placed into practice in South America. The results have been overwhelmingly negative; stagnant economies, inflation multiplied 100 times, frequent currency devalutations and increased unemployment.

In certain countries, the application of this model made it necessary to resort to military force; hence, all labor unions and trade organizations were suppressed, the people were oppressed and the violation of human rights was rampant at all levels.

In the light of those countries' example, the economists say, it is incredible that the Honduran Government should be so stubbornly determined to impose an inappropriate and detrimental model on us. We call this to the attention of those who made the decisions so that we can seriously seek alternative models that respond to our problems, the economists state.

MINISTERS COMMENT ON EFFECTS OF OIL PRICE DROP

PA191241 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 18 Mar 83 p 4

[Text] The economy and finance ministers, Gostavo Alfaro Zelaya and Arturo Corleto Moreira, [names and titles as published] met yesterday afternoon to analyze the effects of Venezuela's price cuts on Honduras. After the meeting, Alfaro said that the government will save 38.7 million [no currency given] with the price decrease from $34 to $29 per barrel. The first shipment at the new price will probably arrive at Puerto Cortes on 2 April.

The official clearly explained that the reductions will not benefit the consumer directly, but indirectly, because Honduras will spend less foreign exchange.

Alfaro said that he is confident that the Venezuelan Investment Fund will approve a $22.8 million loan, which that organization could not discuss on 14 March because of the drop in prices and because of the protest from the Confederation of Venezuelan Workers asking that Venezuela discontinue its aid to Central American countries.

"The government has made no decision on this energy cooperation agreement," Alfaro said. He said in closing that the economic cabinet will decide how the money saved by the drop in petroleum prices will be used.

HAVANA ON HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE'S CHARGES

PA201855 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 20 Mar 83

[Text] The Honduran human rights defense committee announced Saturday that it will investigate the circumstances under which communist leader (Herminio Deras) was killed. (Deras) was shot to death in the northern city of San Pedro Sula and his body showed signs of having been tortured.

(Ramon Custodio), president of this human rights committee, says that more than 70 Hondurans and foreigners have disappeared in this country in the last 2 years. According to (Custodio), it is evident that the government's repressive bodies and the paramilitary groups participate in and are responsible for these disappearances.

NICARAGUA

CORDOVA RIVAS CITES HEAVY BORDER FIGHTING

PA191233 Paris AFP in English 1209 GMT 19 Mar 83

[Text] Managua, March 19 (AFP) -- Sandinist government forces today were battling to repel an incursion of armed supporters of the late Nicaraguan dictator General Anastasio Somoza from neighboring Honduras, a member of the junta said.

Rafael Cordova Rivas said elite police forces had been dispatched from the capital to aid government troops struggling to crush an invasion of 1,500 backers of General Somoza who had penetrated northern Nicaragua from bases in Honduras during the week.

Sandinist and pro-Somoza forces were reported today locked in fierce fighting in Nicaragua's mountainous and wooded provinces of Jinotega and Matagalpa..

The government has issued no casualty lists but unofficial sources here said the fighting had already claimed many lives. Mr Cordova said armed forces had the situation under control.

FSLN, Assembly Discuss Incursions

PA191430 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1412 GMT 19 Mar 83

[Text] Managua, 19 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- The Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) has convoked the FSLN Assembly, an organization for party consultations, to discuss the situation created by deep incursions into the nation's territory by an anti-government force estimated at almost 10,000 men.

It was learned today in the Nicaraguan capital that the FSLN Assembly, composed of the best Sandinist cadres, is holding meetings with the government junta members in Managua.

Leaders of the patriotic front of the revolution, which is a bloc of leftwing parties allied with the Sandinists, are also participating in the meetings.

It is possible that the meetings may also include representatives of the opposition parties, who apparently have also been called to participate.

All of these meetings are being held with the aim of "discussing the aggressive escalation of imperialism represented by the introduction of Somozist groups deep into our territory." It has been confirmed that the FSLN Directorate and the government junta will provide information jointly on Monday on the existing situation and on the response intended to repel the invading force.

FSLN Communique

PA191455 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 19 Mar 83

[Text] This coming Monday, 21 March, the FSLN National Directorate will address the people of Sandino to broach the topic of the imperialist escalation of aggression against our country. To this end, the FSLN National Directorate met yesterday with the Sandinist Assembly, which is regarded as a consultative organization, and with the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction [JGRN] and the cabinet.

Here is the text of our vanguard's official communique: The Secretariat of the FSLN National Directorate advises the people that:

1. On Friday, 18 March, the FSLN National Directorate called an extraordinary meeting of the Sandinist Assembly, the foremost consultative organization of the FSLN, in order to discuss the imperialist escalation of aggression represented by the introduction of Somoziat groups deep into our territory.

2. Also on Friday, it met with JGRN and with the cabinet with the same objective.

3. The FSLN and our revolutionary government will also hold meetings with the patriotic front of the revolution and other organizations, to discuss the situation.

4. The FSLN National Directorate and the JGRN will provide information to our people on the situation mentioned above and on the response that has been implemented on Monday, 21 March.

Free Fatherland or Death. [Signed] Secretariat of the FSLN National Directorate, [dated] Managua, 18 March 1983, year of the struggle for peace and sovereignty.

More on Incursions

PA191823 Paris AFP in Spanish 1800 GMT 19 Mar 83

[Excerpts] Managua, 19 Mar (AFP) -- The FSLN National Directorate has called an urgent meeting of various political organizations to discuss the situation in the northeastern region, where some 4500 men connected with the gangs of former Somozists have intensified their actions against the government in the last few days.

According to reports received in this capital, these groups entered the country from Honduran territory to unleash a strong offensive, which forced the Sandinist authorities to deploy large numbers of troops from the government defense corps.

While a communique on the subject was issued, military sources reported unofficially that strong troop contingents from the Sandinist People's Army have been moved to Matagalpa, indicating that fierce fighting has been underway there for more than a week.

It was also indicated that daily activities are taking place normally in the departmental capital of Matagalpa, despite the intense military campaign that is taking place in the mountainous region of that jurisdiction.

Rafael Cordova Rivas, Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction member, said previously that between 5500 and 1500 [as received] had entered from Honduran territory, but that the army was in control of the situation and the insurgents were disbanding.

'Senior Official' Comments

PA210139 Paris AFP in English 0121 GMT 21 Mar 83

[Text] Managua, March 21 (AFP) -- Up to 3,000 "counter-revolutionaries" have invaded Nicaragua from neighboring Honduras, "creating a new military emergency" here, a senior official said Sunday. The Nicaraguan Government official, who would not allow his name to be used, said heavy fighting was going on between the Nicaraguan Army and the invaders, said to be Honduras-based Somozistas -- supporters of the Anastasio Somoza dictatorship ousted by the Sandinista revolution in 1979.

Denying claims from Somozista sources in Honduras, the official said the invaders had captured the Nicaraguan town or garrison in the combat area -- the jungle-covered mountain provinces of Jinotega and Matagalpa. The government, he said, had not announced details of the fighting earlier, not wanting to alarm the people unnecessarily." But in view of the "new military emergency," a full combat report would be issued Monday.

BORGE TELLS POLICEMEN NOT TO MISTREAT PRISONERS

PA182021 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 18 Mar 83

[Text] In the next few days, the FSLN National Directorate will explain to our people the real magnitude of the events taking place in Nicaragua. In this way, it will confront a wave of rumors that is circulating about the activities of the counter-revolutionary bands. This was announced by Tomas Borge, commander of the revolution and interior minister, during a ceremony to award incentives to members of the national penitentiary system in the police processing department. He added that in coming days the Interior Ministry will create a new company of combatants selected from among the best members of the various sectors of the Sandinist police in order to go fight the counterrevolutionary bands that are attacking our country with U.S. support and financing.

In yesterday's ceremony, Commander of the Revolution Tomas Borge said that the police chiefs, officers and members of the police processing department have the duty to combat any tendency towards physical mistreatment. He added that they must also fight against anything degrading and all kinds of physical pressure to obtain confessions. He said that this must be replaced with sagacity, intelligence, astuteness and revolutionary patience, which are more effective than brute force.

The interior minister urged traffic policemen to maintain the principle of being extremely courteous to citizens. He told them that fines can be given with a smile as well as they can with a frown. He said that one must be intransigent regarding traffic violations, not for demagogic reasons but for principles. Tomas Borge noted that the police must be courteous and extremely pleasant, but that a policeman cannot be bought by anyone, not even by Mandrake the Magician.

REAGAN PLAN TO BOLSTER DEMOCRACY CRITICIZED

PA181250 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 17 Mar 83

["Beyond the News Reports" feature: "Mr Ronald Reagan's Democratic Store"]

[Excerpts] First with dollars and transnationals, then with advisers and military equipment and now with special sales at very low prices to its Central American political clientele, the United States has come up with every possible formula for imposing the so-called North American democracy on the area's nations.

Now, in the 1980's, Ronald Reagan's administration is asking the U.S. Congress for funds to create a so-called Regional Institute for Democracy. Barely a week ago, Thomas Enders, U.S. assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs, said that the institute is intended to develop leadership abilities and to foster ties among democratic leaders of this generation and the next, as if creating political leaders was as easy as making tortillas.

These gentlemen feel that the reason that North American democracy has not been consolidated in Central America is the inefficacy of the traditional parties, which failed to take advantage of the U.S. meddling to become area leaders. For this reason, these democratic leaders will try to determine, with counseling from North American politicians, how to avert a repetition of this failure, in light of the current escalation in intervention.

This so-called Regional Institute for Democracy is simply an appendage to the military program that Reagan outlined a few days ago, when he asked for an additional $50 million for El Salvador and an additional $20 million for the rest of Central America.

Ronald has not thought, for instance, of creating a similar institute for the Southern Cone, where the last recorded elections were held in 1973. The fact is that, in the final analysis, the terms democracy, votes and ballot boxes are nothing but screens to hide a policy of exploitation and subjugation.

This has been demonstrated by history and realized by the Latin American peoples. Because of its contempt for the underdeveloped world, the empire is incapable of realizing that the peoples of this continent have developed a profound political culture based on their suffering, struggles and hopes and that, as a result, they have learned firsthand how to tell the difference between imperialist democracy and people's democracy.

RAMIREZ LINKS U.S. AID TO EL SALVADOR, VIETNAM

PA191929 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 19 Mar 83

[Text] Dr Sergio Ramirez, member of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, said during the "Face the People" program tonight that what the U.S. Government is doing in Central America -- granting $120 million to the Salvadoran military -- is the same thing it did during the Vietnam war. Here is Ramirez answering a question from a worker from Plywood de Nicaragua:

[Begin recording] The Reagan administration and Mr Reagan personally have asked the U.S. Congress to authorize an additional $120 million to finance the war against the Salvadoran people and to enable the Yankee Government to furnish more training to the Salvadoran Government as well as to Honduran soldiers. They also plan to supply a lot more ammunition, automatic weapons, planes and bombs as well as to bring more military field advisers into El Salvador.

So far, this war against the Salvadoran people has cost the Yankee Government more than $80 million. They are now talking about an additional $120 million. This is exactly what happened in Vietnam when the U.S. Government became involved in that war. First, the U.S. Government said that a few military advisers were being sent. Later it said that this number was insufficient and that it had to be doubled or tripled. Then it said that more Vietnamese soldiers had to be trained and that it had to deliver more arms and planes. When the Vietnamese soldiers failed, U.S. soldiers were sent to support the Vietnamese directly so that the war would not be lost.

We already know how the Vietnam war ended. This isn't a story Nicaragua made up. Mr Reagan is being told this in the United States.

Mr Reagan is following the steps taken by other U.S. governments during the Vietnam war. There was a point during that war, at the time of the Managua quake in December 1972 -- the world did not hear much about it because the earthquake made news all over the world -- when thousands of tons of bombs were raining down on Vietnam. [end recording]

CONIPAZ PRESIDENT SAYS U.S. THREAT OVER C.A.

PA191242 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 18 Mar 83

[Text] Mexico -- Commander Olga Aviles, president of the Nicaraguan Peace Committee, Conipaz, said the U.S. threat of massive military intervention is hovering over Central America. During the Third International Conference on Human Rights, Disarmament and Life, Commander Aviles accused the United States of violently resisting the changes demanded by the Central American peoples. Commander Aviles said that 7 days ago, five C-130 military transport planes transported 2 million bullets for M-16 rifles to El Salvador and that U.S. support to the Salvadoran Army is part of the U.S. aggression and warmongering escalade. She also said that southeast of Tegucigalpa a base is being built that will be within range of El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua.

ORTEGA DELEGATION CONCLUDES VISIT TO LAOS

PA190505 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 18 Mar 83

[Text] A high-level Nicaraguan delegation headed by Commander Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, has begun a tour of Indochina after participating in the nonaligned summit. The Nicaraguan delegation concluded its visit to Laos today.

Commander Ortega is accompanied by Foreign Minister Father Miguel D'Escoto, Culture Minister Father Ernesto Cardenal and Joaquin Cuadras Lacayo, chief of staff of the Sandinist Peoples Army.

At the end of their visit to Vientiane, the Laotian capital, Commander Ortega held a news conference after signing a joint communique with Laotian Government authorities.

Prior to the visit to Laos, Commander Ortega visited Vietnam and Kampuchea, where he was received with the highest honors by Heng Samrin, secretary general of the Central Committee of the People's Revolutionary Party and chairman of the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Council, with whom he held two working meetings and visited the museum of the genocide, a memoral to the victims of the Pol Pot regime between 1975 and 1978 when 3 million people were killed.

Commander Ortega was there on an official visit. During the meeting, the two leaders outlined their two countries' aspirations to contribute to the peoples' struggle for peace, national independence and sovereignty.

A communique approved during the visit states support for the peaceful initiatives of the Soviet Union and the United States, both signatories of the Warsaw Pact, [as heard] which is intended to safeguard and strengthen peace in Europe and the whole world.

The two highly valued the results of the New Delhi nonaligned summit. They said the nonaligned did not allow reactionary forces to use the Kampuchea representation problem to divide the movement. The communique notes that only the People's Republic of Kampuchea has the right to represent the Kampuchean people in international organizations.

The Nicaraguan delegation has left for Managua.

JUIGALPA DEMONSTRATORS PROTEST LACK OF STAPLES

PA191921 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2209 GMT 18 Mar 83

[Text] Managua, 18 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- A group of people staged a demonstration in the streets of Juigalpa, in the central part of Nicaragua, to protest the lack of staples, it was learned here today. The reports added that the demonstrators shouted slogans and carried posters demanding an adequate supply of rice, beans, cooking oil and soap.

Nicaraguan Domestic Trade Ministry (Micoin) authorities have explained that when the staples reach the supermarkets, they are bought in large quantities by hoarders and speculators, who resell them at higher prices.

PRIVATE BUSINESSMEN CHOOSE NEW DIRECTORS

PA182208 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 18 Mar 83

[Text] On the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the foundation of the Nicaraguan Development Institute, INDE, more than 200 of the organization's members gathered to review the most recent annual report and appoint new leaders. Enrique Dreyfus was replaced as president of the Executive Council by (Jose Sandino). The private businessmen met at the Cinema II here in Managua. U.S. Ambassador Anthony Quainton and (Jose Eihbart), president of the Panamanian Education Credit Association, were among the guests.

Enrique Bolanos, (Roberto Cardenal), (Carlos Lacayo), Ernesto Palacio, (Carlos Noguera), Ernesto Salazar and (Melissa Blanco) were chosen as the new INDE directors. (Melissa Blanco) is the first woman to be chosen director in the past few years.

(Sonia Navarro), an anti-patriotic businesswoman from the northern area of the country, asked that tribute be paid to Alfonso Robelo, a counterrevolutionary and businessman. This suggestion met with the approval of some of the members present. Outgoing President Enrique Dreyfus' request that the Lord's prayer be said caught many by surprise since it is the first time in 20 years that this has been done. Amen.

(Jose Sandino), chosen as new director of the INDE Executive Council, said that the main task is to see how the country can progress. He added that he agrees with Enrique Dreyfus -- he was chosen to replace Dreyfus as INDE president -- who said that the businessmen want to participate in all sectors of the country without seeking political power. Let us hear the new INDE president:

[Begin recording] [Sandino] Well, I believe that Enrique Dreyfus' speech is very clear. With Dreyfus' speech, we are trying to tell the Nicaraguan people that we want to help move the country forward.

[Question] In his speech, Dreyfus said that the businessmen must help the government, but without taking a political stand.

[Answer] We in the private sector have always said we are not a political party. We don't seek political power, and Dreyfus explained this quite clearly. We are simply trying to uphold our principles as private businessmen, and we will always try to struggle for them even if we have to interfere in political areas at times. This does not necessarily mean that we are seeking political power.

[Question] However, you are taking a political stand when you say that you are apolitical or when you express a political view.

[Answer] Not really, because a law issued by a government is a political law. If this law a law affects us, we struggle against it in a civic manner. At that moment you could say that we are engaged in politics, but we are simply defending ourselves. If the law does not involve us, we have nothing to do with the political sector. [end recording]

HUNGARIAN DELEGATION ARRIVES ON VISIT 18 MAR

PA181952 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 18 Mar 83

[Text] A Hungarian delegation led by (Otto Szabo), director of the Communist Party's school for cadres, arrived in Nicaragua today. It visited the tomb of Carlos Fonseca, commander in chief of the Sandinist People's Revolution, where it signed the condolences book at the main entrance to Commander Fonseca's mausoleum, expressing its solidarity with the Nicaraguan people.

The Hungarian delegation is visiting Nicaragua to strengthen the ties of friendship and solidarity with the revolutionary government.

DOMINICAN COMMUNIST LEADER VIEWS U.S. POLICY

PA182343 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 18 Mar 83

[Text] Narciso Isa Conde, leader of the Dominican Communist Party, said the United States wants to force the Nicaraguan people to donate more blood. According to this Dominican Communist Party leader, the aggressive and criminal policy of the Ronald Reagan government is interested in forcing the Nicaraguan people to give more quotas of blood. Isa Conde is visiting our country accompanied by five other leaders of Dominican leftist parties. He stressed his party's support for the Sandinist revolution and rejected the policy of Yankee imperialism that wants to invade Nicaragua and El Salvador.

Following are statements by Narciso Isa Conde: [Begin recording] The U.S. leadership has shown a clear tendency to favor a military and interventionist solution for Central America. We emphatically reject this. We believe that the position of the leaders and peoples of Nicaragua and El Salvador is very fair. They have spoken in favor of peace but a peace that will recognize these peoples' right for self-determination.

The U.S. plan has several aspects. First, regarding Nicaragua, it is mainly intended to arm the former Somozist guards with the help of Honduran regime in order to maintain a policy of constant aggression and intervention. This is an attempt to affect the Nicaraguan process, forcing this people to donate more blood as it did with the recent murders at the border and raids by the Somozist guard bandits. The United States also wants to prevent the evident downfall of the Salvadoran genocidal army, which shows strong signs of demoralization while the counteroffensive of the revolutionary movement headed by the FMLN daily advances in an unstoppable manner. [end recording]

'ANTI-IMPERIALIST' GROUPS ON REAGAN SPEECH

PA201214 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 20 Mar 83

[Text] In Havana, the Cuban section of the Anti-Imperialist Tribunal of our America has given the local and international news media a statement rejecting the concepts set forth by U.S. President Ronald Reagan in his 10 March speech to the National Association of Manufacturers of America.

The regional organization strongly rejects the dubious statements made by Reagan, characterizing them as hypocritical and charging that they were intended to hide the true objective of imperialist domination in the area and that they twist historical facts through use of the unacceptable concept of Panamericanism.

The statement rejects Reagan's incorrect statement about the existence of a common Latin American and U.S. past and the phony peaceful coexistence between the two, noting that U.S.-Latin American relations are getting worse because of the direct threats against Cuba, Grenada, Nicaragua and the Guatemalan and Salvadoran liberation movements.

The Cuban section of the Anti-Imperialist Tribunal also accused the United States of being the traditional pillager of the natural wealth of the countries of our America, which, the statement asserts, will never be a friendly neighbor to the United States as long as that nation is an imperialist power.

Guillermo Toriello, president of the regional organization, has warned of the danger of a genuine attack on Nicaragua and other Central American nations.

STATION SCORES FURTHER U.S. AID TO MAGANA REGIME

FL182015 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 18 Mar 83

["Revolutionary Armed Forces and Interior Ministry Combatants Political Information" program commentary]

[Text] FMLN combatants, victory after victory, have been making significant progress in their just liberation struggle. President Ronald Reagan himself felt obliged to acknowledge this fact when he admitted that at this time the revolutionaries have the tactical upper hand. The Yankee President, seeing the approaching collapse of the bloody Alvaro Magana dictatorship, elected to blame Cuba and the Soviet Union as a smokescreen to play down the skill, tenacity and heroism of the Salvadoran guerrillas, who are confronting and defeating a superior enemy force in number of men and weapons.

FMLN combatants have achieved significant expertise in their military capacity. The guerrillas made considerable advances in the Departments of Morazan, Chalatenango, San Vicente, Cerros de San Pedro, Guasapa and Jucaran and have extended the military theater of operations into new territories in the western part of the country, north of San Miguel and into other areas. This demonstrates that the Salvadoran war, mathematically calculated and conducted by the White House, has failed.

The U.S. Administration is planning to settle the Salvadoran conflict by increasing its military aid to the genocidal regime of Alvaro Magana. In just the last 3 years, the United States has spent $748 million to prop up the regime's military and economy.

The Pentagon established a command post to conduct the war in Fort Gullick, Panama. It has trained and equipped troops with communications and intelligence gear and has trained elite battalions in Fort Bragg and Fort Benning, Florida [as heard].

To all of this we can add that Mr Fred Ikle, under secretary of defense for policy, and General Wallace Nutting, commander of the U.S. Armed Forces' Southern Command, met in El Salvador to outline and review the strategy for the conduct of the war. As if this wasn't enough, the U.S. President has requested $110 million more and said he would send many more [military] advisors to El Salvador in order to prevent the victory of the revolutionary forces.

While Washington persists in maintaining Magana and company in power in that Central American country, hundreds of people are dying, among them peaceloving and helpless children, women and elderly people. Incidents such as those which occurred Monday in the La Bermuda village of Cuscatlan, where dozens of civilians were murdered, including Marianela Garcia Villas, president of the Salvadoran Human Rights Commission, happen frequently. That is the regime which Mr Reagan is so adamant in defending.

The Yankee intervention in El Salvador may prolong the war and increase the innocent bloodshed, but the triumph of the Salvadoran revolutionaries is inevitable because they defend the people's cause. The only viable solution to the conflict is negotiation between all the parties involved. This is resolutely opposed by the United States. With or without negotiation, the triumph belongs to the Salvadoran people, to its best sons, to those who have faced the bullets in defense of the most basic human rights, to those who have had to bear the boot of oppression and intervention for decades, to those who fight to achieve a fatherland which would be prosperous and free from the imperialist yoke.

FOREIGN MINISTER'S ACTIVITIES IN SPAIN REPORTED

PA181324 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 Mar 83

[Text] Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca is on an official visit to Spain, the first to that country by a Cuban foreign minister. In Madrid, Malmierca visited the Senate and the Congress of Deputies, where he was greeted by Frederico de Carvajal and (Gregorio Peses Barba), the presidents of the two houses. He also talked with deputies, senators and members of the two houses' Foreign Affairs Committees, noting that there are many points of coinciding interest on which Cuba and Spain can cooperate, as Spain is very close to Latin America and can develop close ties with the area's countries.

Malmierca spoke of the tense political situation in General America, especially in El Salvador, declaring that there are three possible solutions for that country: The assumption of power by the Salvadoran revolutionaries; negotiations between the conflicting parties and the creation of a broad coalition government; and direct U.S. military intervention. This last possibility could regionalize the war, he said, adding that the world's democratic forces must do everything possible to prevent this.

In explaining Cuba's position toward the United States, Malmierca said that we have sought normal relations with Washington since the Cuban revolution's triumph in 1959, but the U.S. Government has always responded with aggression and threats. We want normalcy with the United States, he said, but it must be based on respect for our independence and sovereignty.

The Cuban foreign minister will be received by Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez, after which he will end his visit to Spain tomorrow.

MALMIERCA DISCUSSES NONALIGNED CONFERENCE

LD191112 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 2120 GMT 18 Mar 83

[Interview with Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca by unidentified correspondent, in Budapest; time not given; Malmierca remarks in Spanish with superimposed Hungarian translation -- recorded]

[Text] [Question] Under the leadership of the United States, a campaign was started with the aim of diverting the Nonaligned Movement's member countries from one of the most important basic principles, namely anti-imperialism. On the other hand, a group of nonaligned countries at the New Delhi conference sought the withdrawal of the decisive resolutions adopted at the Havana summit. They wanted to organize an anti-Havana meeting.

[Answer] It is quite true that the imperialist propaganda organizations tried by all means to persuade the Nonaligned Movement's countries to give up their anti-imperialist stand. These efforts failed, of course. At the Seventh Nonaligned Summit Conference, the movement confirmed its anti-imperialist, anticolonialist and antineocolonialist principles. The heads of state and government meeting in India again ratified these basic principles and, as part of the conference resolution, adopted the New Delhi message. This calls for the defense of peace, the cessation of the arms race, especially nuclear armaments, and the frustration of the policy of confrontation serving the aims of imperialism.

[Question] The is a general view that the greatest result of the Seventh Nonaligned Summit Conference was the preservation of the Nonaligned Movement's unity. Do you agree with this opinion?

[Answer] Yes, I believe that the conference has again strengthened the movement's unity. Nearly all member states were represented at the summit. The favorable atmosphere and the tone of the closing statement also reinforced the movement's unity. I must refer here to the previous question, however -- that there were attempts to create a so-called anti-Havana conference. These attempts, however, had the opposite result. In their speeches, the majority of the heads of state and government speaking at the summit conference recognized the role Cuba has played in the movement, and especially Fidel Castro's activities as chairman of the movement. Indira Gandhi, the Indian prime minister, also stressed this in her closing speech.

[Question] Within the movement one can identify three wings, three groupings. One is called radical, the second pro-American, the third middle-of-the-road. After the Seventh Nonaligned Summit Conference, what trends will prevail within the movement and within the groupings?

[Answer] I must say that I have read in the American press about categories of this kind and this appears very superficial. It seems that attempts are being made to group the member countries according to arbitrarily chosen criteria. If we analyse the opinions of the more than 100 member-states of the movement, it would appear that every one places a different problem in the foreground. So we would encounter the most varying opinions. At the same time, we would see very important and remarkable agreement concerning basic problems. These are the cause of peace, the stand against armaments, especially nuclear armaments, support for independence struggles, assistance in the fight for national independence, and opposition to colonialism. In practice, in this connection there is complete unity. There are, of cource, particular problems regarding which individual countries can hold and defend differing opinions.

There are no groupings within the movement, however. The most important development that can be expected is that in time the number of differences will decline and that the movement's various activities will also contribute to this.

[Question] In your opinion, how can the movement's activity change now that India has taken over from Cuba as leader of the nonaligned and now that Indira Gandhi, who believes in compromise solutions, has become the movement's chairman.

[Answer] The chairman plays an important role at the head of the Nonaligned Movement. The most important aspect of this role is that it conveys the feelings of the entire membership and carries out the resolutions which the heads of state and government have endorsed at the summit. This was the interpretation which Cuba followed during the 42 months in which it held this post. The movement's chairman does not make decisions but implements the decisions that the summit conference has made. We are entirely confident that Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and the Indian Government will correctly implement the resolutions which the Seventh Nonaligned Summit Conference adopts and that the Nonaligned countries will continue to play an important role in the solution of basic international problems.

[Question] The question is, how will this be done?

[Answer] Today, the most important thing is to negotiate, with all our strength we should work to discover shared views. In the Nonaligned Movement the method of voting is not applied. We make decisions by unanimous agreement, by consensus. We reach consensus through negotiations, talks, the working out of one, two or many drafts during which views move closer to each other and in the end become acceptable to all states. We believe India will follow this method.

[Question] I know that perhaps a historic perspective is still lacking for us to evaluate the role and activities of the previous chairman of the Nonaligned Movement, namely Cuba. And how do you see, perhaps as a self-appraisal, what Cuba can be proud of and what are the fields in which, let us say, Cuba's success has been less marked.

[Answer] Self-appraisal is always a difficult task. We regarded as very important that we should fight for the movement's unity, that we should preserve its capacity for action and that the movement should be able to attain the aims, which the summit conferences, including the one held in Havana in 1979, have determined. We have aimed at, and I believe worked with success for the solution of conflicts that emerged during the time of Cuba's chairmanship. I believe that in this period Cuba did all that was possible and even a little more, and still there is no doubt that we did not achieve everything we hoped for. We have not been able, for example, to end the Iran-Iraq war, and this incapacity to act had an influence on our unity, the defense of which involves us all.

[Question] How is it possible that in New Delhi there was no agreement on the venue for the next summit meeting?

[Answer] This question is connected with the previous subject. The Seveneth Nonaligned Summit Conference should have been held in Baghdad, the capital of Iraq, but the war between Iraq and Iran continued and under these conditions it appeared more correct and advisable to move the center of the movement to another country, to another capital. At this time, the movement's unity and capacity for action could have suffered. Fortunately, we were able to avert this danger and the movement was able to hold its summit conference in New Delhi.

Now, when we were debating where to hold the next summit meeting, most member states wanted it to be held in Baghdad in 1986. Of course, we have to face realities: The war is continuing. Iraq's government has, however, shown its understanding and stated that it wants to work for the movement's unity. So it accepted the decision that the venue of the next summit meeting should be decided at the ministerial meeting in Luanda in 1985. We trust that by then the war will be over and conditions will make possible a successful organization of the eighth summit conference.

MONTANE MEETS WITH PUERTO RICAN SOCIALISTS

FL181902 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1500 GMT 18 Mar 83

[Text] Jesus Montane, alternate member of the Politburo, member of the Secretariat and chief of the Central Committee's General Department of Foreign Relations, met with a high level delegation of the Puerto Rican Socialist Party [PSP] made up of its president, (Pedro Bran), and Lucia Romero and Pedro Baiquez, members of the political commission; Jose Milton Soltero, member of the Central Committee and head of the Department of International Relations; and Julio Murientes, representative of the PSP in Cuba.

The meeting was held in a fraternal and friendly climate during which Cuba reiterated its solidarity with Puerto Rico in line with the profound historical ties that unite the two nations and Bolivar's and Marti's legacy: Latin American solidarity.

Ricardo Alarcon, alternate member of the party Central Committee and vice minister of foreign relations, also attended the meeting.

GRENADA

BISHOP HAILS BUDGET, CASTIGATES U.S. AGGRESSION

PA201445 St Georges Domestic Service in English 2340 GMT 19 Mar 83

["Excerpts" of speech by Grenadian Prime Minister Maurice Bishop at the geodesic dome in Grand Anse, Grenada, on 17 March 1983 following presentation of the 1983 budget by Finance Minister Bernard Coard -- recorded]

[Excerpts] It is also remarkable today to think of the growth that our country has had, the progress we have made in the economy, when we consider for a moment and reflect once again for a second or two on the tremendous history of severe imperialist aggression that our young revolution has had to face: 4 years of daily jamming, 4 years of constant pressure from different U.S. administrations, from smiling Jimmy Carter to movie star Ronald Reagan, constant jamming and pressure that our revolution has had to face.

The fact is, comrades, in the first few weeks of the revolution, we know that these people sat down in their air-conditioned rooms in Langley and the Pentagon, in the State Department, and they were considering a naval blockade of Grenada. They wanted to try to snuff us out, even before we had barely given birth, just weeks after the revolution, a naval blockade was contemplated.

We also know that by the month of June, within the first 3 months of the revolution, already the Americans, already the CIA had worked out a pyramid plan, as they called it, a CIA pyramid plan. At the bottom of that plan, propaganda destabilization against Grenada; at the top of that plan, violent terrorism and possible invasion against Grenada. And how well we have seen that CIA pyramid plan put into operation over these past 4 years: We have seen on the economic front the major attempts they have made to block us from receiving all possible sources [brief break in transmission].

We remember only too well their massive 1981 campaign, their [brief break in transmission] international major campaign, a campaign in which they sent dozens of their diplomats to every European capital, urging them not to attend the co-financing conference to raise money for the airport which we had organized for April of 1981 in Brussels.

We remember only too well, comrades, the extent to which they coordinated and organized propaganda against the airport, trying to pretend that this airport was going to be used as some kind of military base and for military purposes, forgetting that they themselves, under previous governments in this country, had been saying that the only answer and the only way forward was an international airport, talking and encouraging it before the revolution, condemning it and criticizing it after the revolution.

The fact is, comrades, the revolution has not only gone forward, has not only continued to grow, but it has done so in a faster [corrects word] at a faster pace, at a faster rate, than we could really ever had hoped was likely.

At the same time, another one of their main objectives, the objective of destroying Grenada's reputation in the world, of lowering the prestige of the revolution, that too, they have seen defeated. At the recent Nonaligned Confe ence, for example, Grenada was elected again as a vice president to the summit, one of only four countries from Latin America and the Caribbean.

At that recent nonaligned summit, Grenada was again re-elected to the bureau, the executive arm of the Nonaligned Movement. Grenada's position on different major questions facing the Nonaligned Movement Summit was given serious consideration and received a lot of attention from all countries present -- in particular our position on how to move forward, in terms of dealing with the international monetary and financial system, was listened to with the greatest of attention.

In fact, during the period of the nonaligned summit, our country was also able to develop diplomatic relations with four new countries, with which we had not previously had relations. We were able to sign on the same day, the last day in fact, diplomatic relations with the Government of Angola, with the Government of Ghana, with the PLO [applause] and with the Government of Afghanistan. [applause] And, comrades, you'll also be pleased to hear that in the different speeches made to the summit by the different heads of state, Grenada was mentioned by name and firm solidarity expressed with our process by no less than 30 different heads of state in their speeches to the summit. [applause]

So the fact of the matter is, comrades, their attempts at destroying the economy of our country, their attempts at slowing down the speed at which we can develop more and more relations on the international front, the attempts at destroying the unity of our people, the attempts at overthrowing our revolutionary process, all of these attempts have failed, and that is the bitter pill that Ronald Reagan and his advisers now have to face. And that is the reason why, in discovering in these last months in particular that every single attempt they have made to isolate us has failed. Every single attempt to hold us back has gone astray, every attempt to confuse our people has come to naught. Every attempt to attack our foreign policy has also foundered. Now that they have discovered all of these facts, they are being forced more and more to move to the one last desperate ploy that they have left, the one last desperate action that they can take: The action of armed aggression against our country.

That is why, comrades, at this particular point in time, our revolution faces again a very real and serious danger and threat from the United States, because they have admitted defeat, they have admitted that the propaganda hasn't worked, that the economic aggression hasn't worked, that the political and diplomatic destabilization has not worked and in admitting defeat, they have come up with the last answer of the drowning: The answer is a military attack against our country.

And that is why we have to take this massive propaganda blitz of the last few weeks so seriously. That is why we have to understand the full meaning of this new pretense on the part of the Ronald Reagan administration that our country is a threat to our neighbors, that our country is a threat to the national security interests of the United States. Because by making these claims of being a threat to the national security interests of the United States, what Ronald Reagan is really trying to do is to prepare the people of the United States for a military attack against our country. That is at the heart of this strategy. And that is why we have seen just in the last 2 and 1/2 months that every top leader of the Ronald Reagan administration has come out attacking the Grenada revolution.

First of all, we had Vice President Bush in Miami in January coming out with an attack on the revolution. We also had the spectacle during the Nonaligned Movement meeting in Managua, Nicaragua, the meeting of foreign ministers in that country in January, of a document being circulated, coming from the United States, attacking the Grenada revolution. And in this document, they were trying to urge the countries of the Nonaligned Movement to withhold their support and solidarity for the revolutionary processes of Cuba, Nicaragua and Grenada.

We saw, thirdly, that on the 27th of February, just in the last 2 and 1/2 weeks, one of the leading newspapers of the United States, the WASHINGTON POST, came out exposing a CIA plan of destabilization against our country, a plan of destabilization which in fact was presented to the American Senate Intelligence Committee since 1981, and in this plan, they outline propaganda, economic and military forms of destabilization again. And in this plan, also, according to the WASHINGTON POST article, there was also contained what is described as unusual and unspecified components.

Now, of course, we don't know what these unusual and unspecified components are, but we will certainly assume that they must be in the area of violence, of terrorism, of invasion, of assassination against our country and leadership. It is very difficult to see what new the CIA can come up with, after all, because over the years, just about every dirty trick has been tried by that organization. We also had recently, the deputy assistant secretary of defense of the United States, a man called Nestor Sanchez, making another statement attacking the revolution, once again claiming that we were constructing in our country air and naval military facilities. It has been long time now that they have been attacking the airport as a military base, but more and more we have been discovering that they are also throwing in at this time that we are building naval facilities for military purposes. Of course, not one of them can point to any such naval facilities, because none exist.

And then, seventhly, we had the President himself, Ronald Reagan. Reagan also came out with a big statement of attack. This statement by Ronald Reagan was made on the 10th of March, and he made the statement at a time when he was delivering an address to the Association of Manufacturers of America, and in his statement Ronald Reagan talked as usual about the airport, made up the usual bogus claims about a naval base being built, then attacks our country for threatening the national security interests of the United States.

So, Ronald Reagan, the President of the United States himself, in this most recent statement, came out with the sharpest and most direct statement of all, a statement where not only did he attack our country in the usual way, but he also chose to attack American journalists, who had made the point to him, through their newspaper columns, that Grenada cannot be any threat to the mighty United States; that a small, poor country only producing nutmeg and cocoa and bananas cannot possibly be any kind of threat to the national security interests of the United States.

Reagan and them want to stay in the United States and peep long-distance for thousands of miles, to peep at the Soviets, engage in international "Macoism" [meddling in the affairs of others] and tie in our poor little country in all of this "Macoing." [laughter]

Well, they have to understand -- clearly, comrades, clearly -- that it is one thing to peep, it is one thing to engage in all of this amount of "Macoism," but is is quite another thing to move from peeping to trying to land, because if they peep, all that is going to happen is that they get cockeyed. [applause] All those who want to peep, I don't think we could quarrel with that. We know, in any event, that we can't stop peeping. They have big satellites up there that could spin around and pick up even a pin on this island, even a little pin. So we can't stop the international peeping-tomism, we can't stop the "Macoism." They can keep on peeping all they want, but I think the message that our people need to deliver back to Ronald Reagan again is that peeping is one thing; you can get all the cockeye you want from peeping, but don't move from peeping to try to land, because when you try to land, we will take away your eyes, your belly and your toe and all. [appaluse]

It is important for us to see this threat for what it is, as a serious threat against our country. It is important for us to analyze very carefully the fullest implication of what it means when someone says that your country is a threat to their national security, because that means that as long as your country is there, or your revolution is there, then they will always feel threatened and therefore they'll have to move against us. It is important, comrades, to understand that Ronald Reagan at this time faces a serious situation of defeat in El Salvador. The popular revolutionary forces in El Salvador are daily gaining victories, are daily forcing the El Salvadoran soldiers [as heard] [applause]

It is also important to understand that Ronald Reagan and his people understand only too well that the people of Nicaragua, the revolutionary courageous, heroic children of Sandino are not about to turn away and give up their revolution, they are fighting back and their revolution is consolidating. [applause]

It is very important for us to understand also, in order to fully understand the desperation of Reagan at this time, that, far from his greatest effort at trying to overthrow the government and people of revolutionary Cuba. The prestige, the strength, the unity and the internal consoldation of revolutionary Cuba continues to advance and go forward. [applause]

Comrades, never forget that when we are talking about Ronald Reagan in the United States. We are not talking about some ordinary human being; we are talking about a real true-to-life fascist in the best tradition of Hitler and Goebbels, a real true to life fascist, whose racist propensities are seen in his treatment of the blacks and other ethnic and national minorities in the United States, whose antiwomen position is seen in the statements made by Jesse Helms and others who support him, whose positions against the workers is seen by the continuous attacks against the United States working class, whose chauvinist crusading character has been the great white knight on the black horse who has come back to save the world from communism, can be seen every day in every statement that Ronald Reagan makes, where he believes that the entire world must be subjected to the teeth of the great United States.

There is a consonous [as heard] policy leading to pursue a crazy arms race and to build up his nuclear weaponry and his neutron bomb, where Reagan genuinely believes in his crazy mind that he can roll back the national liberation movements worldwide, that he can roll back the socialist world, that he can roll back the progress of the peoples w rldwide, that he can stop the scores of victories and successes of the oppressed eoples of the Third World. These are the dreams in Reagan's head. And like in the movies he used to act during the 50's, when he used to ride as a cowboy going out in the sun after killing several Indians, Reagan still believes it is as simple as taking up his bow and arrow and coming down to Grenada to see if he finds some wild Indians put here to shoot.

But Reagan is going to make a serious mistake if they believe that because they are big and powerful and have the weapons, that they will win. It is true that if Reagan's plan is as simple as to send his bombs to blow our country up and to wipe our country off the face of the map, we can't stop that. They could blow up Grenada tomorrow. We could all die an honorable death. But if Reagan's plan and dream and ambition is not to blow up the island but to come down here to overthrow the government in order to put a puppet government into power, Reagan will discover that millions of soldiers, billions of weapons, all the nuclear weaponry could never overthrow this revolutionary government of Grenada. [Applause, chants of "No, Reagan!"]

Reagan had better not believe that just by killing those of us on this stage, that he has had a victory, because that might be a victory of sorts, it might be a short-sighted victory. But in terms of the survival of this revolution, in terms of its greater consolidation, in terms of it continuing to go forward, Reagan better be absolutely convinced that for every one of us that would be killed on this stage, 10,000 more would arise out there among our people with arms in their hands to fight back. [applause]

It would be much, much better if the United States under Ronald Reagan would grow up, would recognize that Grenada is a little bit too big for the United States to beat in terms of our will and our spirit, [applause] recognize the reality that this revolution is here, that this revolution is standing here, that this revolution ain't going nowhere, that this revolution only has one place to go and that is up and forward ever. Forward ever: that is where we going. [applause]

We would much rather be able to deal with the United States administration in a way that is sensible and constructive: To have dialog as we have requested on dozens of occasions, as letter after letter has gone unanswered; to have an exchange of ambassadors as again we have requested on several occasions; to let the hostility against us cease, to stop the propaganda, stop the economic aggressions, stop the attacks against us. We would prefer to deal on the normal, civilized, international relation principles of peaceful coexistence, of ideological pluralism, of respect for all countries regardless of size, of the principle of liberal equality, of mutual respect for sovereignty, of the principle of the right of all countries to build their own processes. We would much rather be able to treat with Ronald Reagan and his people on that basis. We recognize the might and the power, the military might and power of the United States. We want no quarrel with this United States administration or any other. We want most of all to be able to live in peace, because we recognize that peace is the most important infrastructure of all, and without peace all other infrastructural development becomes meaningless. We want to have the right to build our own process peacefully and in our own way. But Reagan should wake up and he should understand that there are countries and peoples -- notwithstanding what he used to do in the movies -- there are countries and peoples that have pride, that have dignity, that have self-respect, that are forcefully independent, that will die before they submit or give in to somebody else's principles and what they want to impose. [applause] He has to accept that reality. [applause]

HAITI

PORT-AU-PRINCE BOMB ATTACK KILLS ONE

PA192145 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2103 GMT 19 Mar 83

[Excerpt] Port-au-Prince, 19 Mar (LATIN-REUTER) -- A man was killed today when a powerful bomb exploded in the office of a Japanese automobile company. This was the fourth bomb attack in the Haitian capital this year.

The police added that the explosion also caused considerable damage to the Toyota sales office. No information was released regarding possible motives of the attack, and no one immediately claimed credit for it.

On Wednesday, a bomb damaged port of the offices of the newspaper LE NOUVEAU MONDE, the official organ of President-for-Life Jean Calude Duvalier's government.

GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES COOPERATION AGREEMENTS

PA191244 Hilversum International Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 18 Mar 83

[Text] During the recent Nonaligned Summit Conference in New Delhi, Suriname reached bilateral agreements for financial and military cooperation with other countries. Surinamese military leader Daysi Bouterse made this announcement at a news conference in Paramaribo. Bouterse gave no more information on the nature of the cooperation or on the countries with which the agreements were reached. According to the Surinamese leader, the agreements will be developed later.

Meanwhile, it has been announced in Suriname that a broad cooperation treaty has been signed with Libya. The general framework of this treaty will be explained during a visit by a Libyan mission to Suriname, to take place soon.